

“Sign of groove” in Hodgkin’s lymphoma



Figure 1: Swellings in left inguinal region separated by a groove (sign of groove). Note the presence of lichenification and prurigo-like lesions on the thighs indicating intense pruritus.

A 56-year-old man presented with a 2-year history of an asymptomatic left inguinal swelling, along with generalized pruritus and weight loss of 10 kg over the last 6 months. Local examination showed inguinal swellings both above and below the left inguinal ligament, forming the ‘sign of groove’ [Figure 1]. Hematological investigations were unremarkable, except for anemia (Hb 10.6g/dL). A contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan revealed enlarged left inguinal, left iliac, and retroperitoneal lymph nodes. Inguinal lymph node biopsy showed large atypical Reed-Sternberg-like cells with immunopositivity for CD30 and focal positivity for CD15, with a background polymorphous infiltrate. A final diagnosis of classical Hodgkin’s lymphoma was made, and the patient was referred to medical oncology for further management.

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Though often regarded as pathognomonic of lymphogranuloma venereum, the 'sign of groove' or 'groove sign of Greenblatt' can be seen in other conditions as well, including Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. The 'groove' is formed by the inguinal ligament separating the inguinal lymph nodes above and the femoral lymph nodes below.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the patient has given his consent for his images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patient understands that his name and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal the identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Geetali Kharghoria, Prashant Ramteke¹, Asit Ranjan Mridha¹, Vishal Gupta

Departments of Dermatology and Venereology and ¹Pathology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

Corresponding author:

Dr. Vishal Gupta,
Department of Dermatology and Venereology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi - 110 029, India.
doctor.vishalgupta@gmail.com