

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS ?

A 50 year old female patient complained of itchy lesions on the face for 1 year and pain and watering of the eyes for 4 months. Skin lesions first appeared on the nose and gradually spread to both cheeks.

Examination revealed erythematous soft papules on the nose and cheeks. There were corneal opacities in both eyes which also showed conjunctival injection and scleritis. A slit lamp examination revealed a vascular keratitis.



Differential diagnosis : Syphilis with eye involvement
Lepromatous leprosy
Photodermatitis
Acne rosacea
Tinea circinata

A single diagnosis of tinea circinata could be ruled out since eye involvement was one of the main features. Absence of skin lesions elsewhere on the body ruled out a possible lepromatous leprosy with eye involvement. The irregular distribution of the papules on the face, the marked involvement of the eyes and the absence of lesions in other sunexposed areas ruled out possibility of any acquired form of photodermatitis. Early syphilis with eye involvement could be expected to show more widespread skin lesions. In late stage of acquired syphilis eye involvement with vascularisation of the cornea would not be a feature. The age of the patient, morphology of the lesions, site of involvement and changes in the eye could all be attributable to acne rosacea.

Final diagnosis : Acne rosacea