

KOEBNER PHENOMENON IN POLYMORPHOUS LIGHT ERUPTION

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A 12-year-old female having typical lesions of polymorphous light eruptions showed Koebner phenomenon along the scratch marks. Histopathological findings were similar from both the sites.

Key words : Polymorphous light eruptions, Koebner phenomenon.

Polymorphous light eruption (PMLE) is an idiopathic disease which is characterised by erythema, papules, vesicles or plaques on light-exposed areas of skin with a predilection for dorsa of hands and forearms. We have observed Koebner phenomenon along the scratch marks associated with typical lesions in a female patient of PMLE. To the best of our knowledge, Koebner phenomenon has not previously been reported to occur in PMLE.

Case Report

A 12-year-old girl complained of itchy erythematous eruptions, serous discharge and mild crusting on the face and upper extremities for 15 days. There was burning sensation in the lesions on sun-exposure. History of past illness was not contributory. There was no history of intake of photosensitizing drugs. Examination revealed multiple, scattered as well as grouped and skin-coloured to erythematous papular lesions on the light-exposed areas of the face and upper extremities. A few lesions were lichenified and scaly. Koebner phenomenon was observed on the left forearm (Fig. 1) and right wrist. The colour of the urine was normal. Histopathology of biopsy from the site of Koebner phenomenon as well as typical lesions showed normal epidermis,

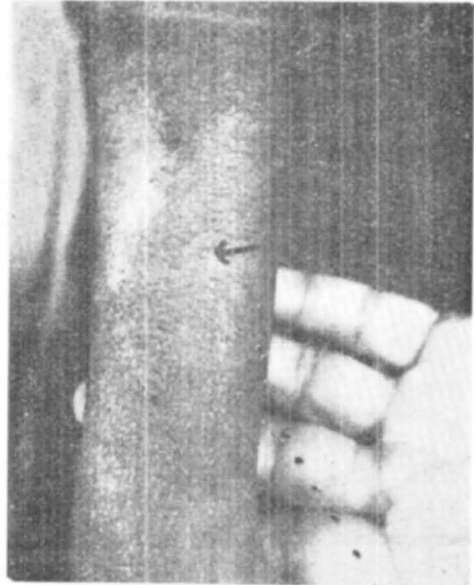


Fig. 1. Koebner phenomenon (arrow) among the classical lesions of PMLE.

oedema of papillary dermis, and superficial and deep perivascular lymphocytic infiltrate.

Comments

Koebner phenomenon is known to occur in many dermatological diseases especially lichen planus,¹ psoriasis,¹ vitiligo¹ and warts.² This phenomenon occurs either due to auto-inoculation of the causative organism along the line of trauma as in warts² or triggering action of local trauma as in psoriasis. Our case was interesting because she featured Koebner phenomenon along the scratch marks among the classical lesions of PMLE. Due to this additional finding, it may be assumed that

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local trauma may precipitate PMLE in a susceptible individual.

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