LATE ONSET URTICARIA PIGMENTOSA WITH EOSINOPHILIA

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A 17-year-old boy had asymptomatic urticaria pigmentosa starting late in life, along with eosinophilia. There was no systemic manifestation.

Key words : Urticaria pigmentosa, Eosinophilia.

Twenty five percent cases of urticaria pigmentosa have late onset.[1] But this type of urticaria pigmentosa has not so far been recorded in the Indian literature. We are reporting a case of asymptomatic urticaria pigmentosa of late onset who also had eosinophilia without any systemic involvement.

Case Report

A 17-year-old boy had hyperpigmented patches all over the body of 2 months duration. The lesions started on the left forearm and within 10 days spread to the face, chest, abdomen and back. There was no history of flushing, diarrhoea and headache. Past and family histories were not significant. The lesions were multiple oval hyperpigmented macules (Fig. 1) of varying sizes all over the body including the right palm (4 lesions). Left palm, soles, scalp and oral mucosa were not involved. There was no lymphadenopathy or bony tenderness. Darier's sign was positive but dermographism was negative. Systemic examination revealed nothing abnormal. All the routine investigations on blood, urine and stools were normal except eosinophilia (AEC 2000/ml). Other causes of eosinophilia like worm infestations, filariasis etc were ruled out. Histopathological examination revealed collection of mononuclear cells in the upper and mid dermis (Fig. 2). Toluidine blue stain for metachromatic granules was positive confirming a diagnosis of urticaria pigmentosa.

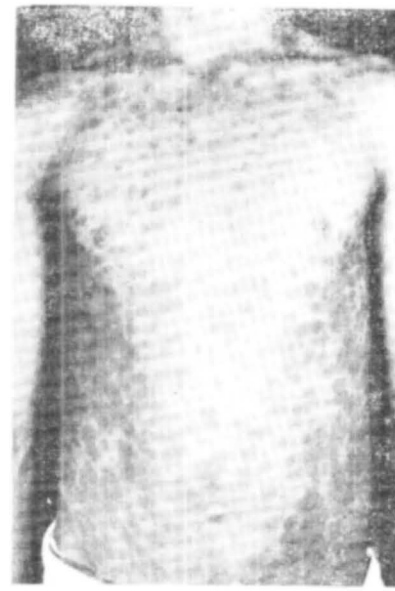

Fig. 1. Multiple lesions of urticaria pigmentosa on the abdomen and chest.

Fig. 2. Mononuclear infiltrate in the dermis (H-E X 400).

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Comments

Caplan[1] classified urticaria pigmentosa into three groups, (I) solitary lesions (10% cases), (II) multiple lesions with onset in infancy or childhood that tend to clear up with adolescence (65% cases), and (III) multiple lesions that develop in early adulthood (25% cases). All the case reports[3-6] described in the Indian literature belong to Caplan group II. Our case is the only case of group III.

According to Carter and O'Keefe,[2] more than half the patients with mastocytosis are free from symptoms, as was our patient also. Moreover, the lesions in our patient, were present on the right palm which have not been described so far.

According to Yam et al,[7] eosinophilia occurs in systemic mastocytosis only, but Caplan[1] has reported eosinophilia in 10% cases of urticaria pigmentosa without having systemic mastocytosis. Our patient did **not** have systemic involvement or any other cause of eosinophilia.

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