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POIKILODERMATOUS MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES

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A 55-year-old male presenting with itching, pigmentation and atrophy confirmed histopathologically as mycosis fungoides is reported for its peculiar manifestation.

Key Words : Poikiloderma, Mycosis fungoides

Introduction

Poikiloderma denotes pigmentation, telangiectasis and atrophy of the skin. These changes could occur in very many dermatological disorders like Rothmund Thompson syndrome, dermatomyositis, lupus erythematosus and mycosis fungoides. This interesting manifestation occurring in mycosis fungoides is reported herewith.

Case Report

A man aged 55 years was admitted for skin lesion, mottled pigmentation, telangiectasis and atrophy (Fig. 1) with the complaints of generalised itching, burning sensation and general weakness. The skin lesions started 3 years back as erythematous scaly lesions over the chest, back, subsequently covering the extremities and face.

The existing skin lesions progressed gradually to poikilodermatous changes, followed by pigmentation over the face in 1 year. Mucous membrane, skin appendages were normal. Axillary and inguinal lymphadenopathy was present - discrete, not tender. Systemic examination revealed no abnormalities.

Fig. 1. Atrophy pigmentation and mottled appearence of skin all over the body

Investigations were as follows Haematological : leucocytosis wit anaemia, Sezary cell, antinuclear facto Elisa test (HIV) - negative, Blood VDRL non-reactive, Bone marrow, G. endoscopy, ultrasound and scan - norm study,. Liver and Muscle biopsy - norm study, Skin biopsy - epidermis atrophic dark stained large mononuclear cells i dermis, epidermodermal junction an

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invading epidermis surrounded by a halo compatible with mycosis fungoides (Fig. 2). Gland biopsy - dermatopathic lymphadenopathic picture.

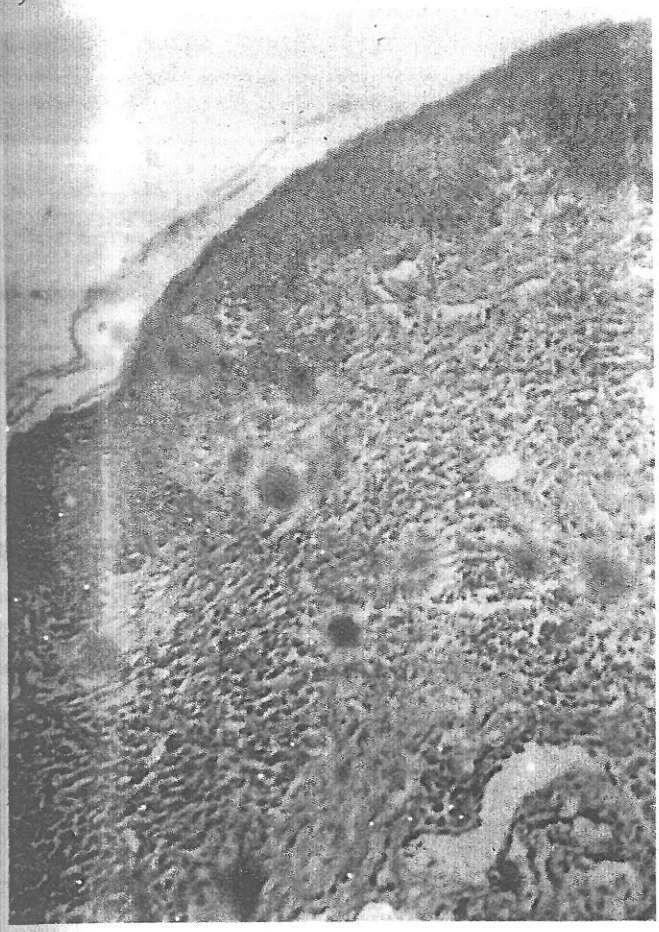

Fig. 2. Extensive infiltration with mononuclear cells in the dermis and epidermotropism

A diagnosis of poikilodermatous mycosis fungoides was made on the basis of clinical and histopathological findings.

Comments

Poikilodermatous mycosis fungoides is a variety of mycosis fungoides belonging to T-cell lymphoma. Of the various stages described in mycosis fungoides, pre-reticulotic, plaque and tumour stages, the eventual progression of the disease which would follow one after another, or at times, the later stages appearing as the first manifestation of the disease. The "poikilodermatous type" is mentioned to occur in the prereticulotic stage with distribution over trunk and extremities with itching and burning sensation.[1]

The histopathological features of skin described are atrophy of epidermis, dense, large, deeply stained mononuclear cells in dermis, close to epidermodermal junction and invading epidermis.

Reference

1. Samman PD. Natural history of parapscriasis en plaque and prereticulotic poikiloderma. Br J Dermatol 1972; 84 : 405-11.