

LINEAR LICHEN PLANUS FOLLICULARIS

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A case of lichen planus follicularis with linear distribution is reported. There was no involvement of mucous membranes, scalp and nails.

Key Word : Lichen planus

Introduction

Lichen planus may occasionally have certain variations which may present difficulty in diagnosis. This is especially true when the lesions happen to be arranged in a linear fashion. Isolated long, narrow, linear lesions in lichen planus are rare.¹ We report a case of lichen planus follicularis with lesions arranged in a linear fashion.

Case Report

A 27-year-old man presented with violaceous follicular papules on the left side of the back and shoulder of 6 months duration. The lesions were mildly pruritic. There was no history of any drug intake prior to the onset of the lesions.

Examination revealed slightly purple, discrete follicular papules distributed over the left side of the trunk. These were grouped over the left shoulder and were arranged in a linear fashion over the left back (Fig. 1). Scalp, mucous membranes and nails were normal. Systemic examination did not reveal any abnormality.

A diagnosis of lichen planus follicularis was made. Histopathological examination of a papule revealed follicular



Fig.1. Follicular papules arranged in a linear fashion over the left back

plugging, basal cell degeneration of the follicular epithelium, predominant follicular lymphocytic infiltrate, and melanin incontinence; thus confirming the diagnosis of lichen planus follicularis.

The patient was prescribed topical corticosteroids with which the lesions cleared in 6 weeks.

Comments

Lichen planus follicularis is an uncommon variant of lichen planus in which the violaceous papular lesions arranged around the follicular openings predominate and these usually appear during the course of typical lichen planus.

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It is more frequent in women and may be associated with an increased incidence of ungual involvement and erosions of mucous membranes.² In our patient, the scalp, mucous membranes, and nails were spared and the lesions were arranged in a linear fashion. This, to the best of our knowledge, has not been described earlier.

References

1. Black MM. Lichen planus and lichenoid eruptions. In: Textbook of Dermatology (Rook A, Wilkinson DS, Ebling FJG, et al, eds) 4th edn. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1987; 1665-85.
2. Arndt KA. Lichen planus. In: Dermatology in General Medicine (Fitzpatrick TB, Eisen AZ, Wolff K, et al, eds) 3rd edn. New York: McGraw-Hill 1987: 967-73.

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