ERYTHEMATOUS HYPERKERATOTIC FOLLICULAR PAPULAR LESIONS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN A LIBYAN PATIENT

(An uncommon clinical manifestation)

Follicular keratotic plugging along with atrophy and scaling is a characteristic feature of discoid lupus erythematosus but discrete erythematous hyperkeratotic papular lesions resembling lesions of keratosis pilaris is a rare and unusual feature of systemic lupus erythematosus. Review of literature revealed that this type of lesion in SLE has been reported exclusively in the Chinese patients.¹ Recently we saw a Libyan patient, suffering from SLE, with similar lesions.

A 35-year-old female was seen with a typical butterfly rash on the face along with fever and arthralgia. In addition, she had discrete erythematous hyperkeratotic follicular papular lesions distributed on the upper part of the back, forearms and back of the hands. Palms showed diffuse erythema and periungual capillary dilatation was prominant. Biopsy from the face and follicular lesions showed typical histopathology of LE. In addition she had positive LE cells, raised ESR and mild thrombocytopenia.

Immunofluorescence studies could not be carried out due to lack of facilities.

Erythematous hyperkeratotic follicular papular lesions in SLE were first reported by Wong, exclusively in the Chinese patients.² Although it is a rare presentation in SLE it was a prominant feature in our patient; the first such case report in an Arab (Libyan).

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