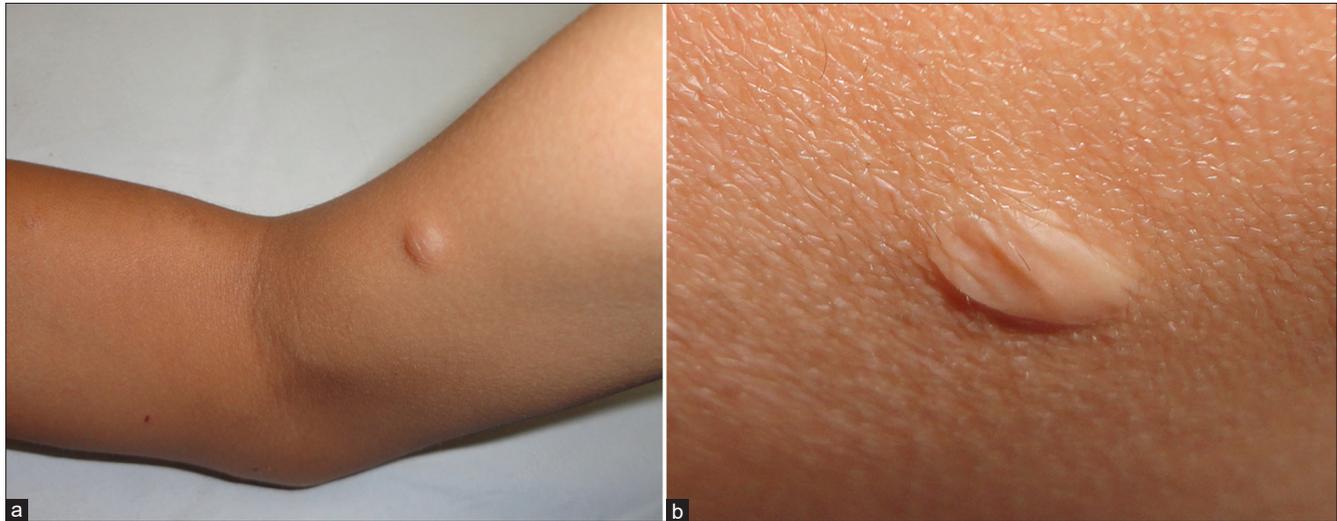


## Lepromatous leprosy masquerading as anetoderma in a boy



**Figure 1:** (a) Anetodermic lesion on the arm. (b) Close-up image of one of the thigh lesions

An adolescent presented with asymptomatic loose outpouching of the skin, without any antecedent lesions. These well-defined atrophic plaques were distributed on the upper arm, thighs and neck [Figures 1a and b]. General examination revealed infiltrated earlobes and symmetrical peripheral nerve thickening without associated sensory impairment. There were no hypopigmented/erythematous patches. Nerve conduction study revealed sensory-motor polyneuropathy. Slit-skin-smear from one of the atrophic lesions from the left upper arm demonstrated acid fast bacilli with a bacillary index of 5+. Histopathology of the same lesion showed peri-adnexal and peri-neuro-vascular lymphohistiocytic collections [Figure 2a], along with degeneration of collagen and elastin [Figure 2b] and positive-modified Ziehl-Neelsen staining. Syphilis, human immunodeficiency virus and anti-phospholipid antibodies screening were unremarkable. Anetoderma in polar lepromatous leprosy is extremely rare. In the absence of reactions to suggest neutrophil-mediated elastolysis, elastolytic enzymes produced by lesional macrophages may be the reason for anetoderma.

### Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the legal guardian has given his consent for images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The guardian understands that names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal patient identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

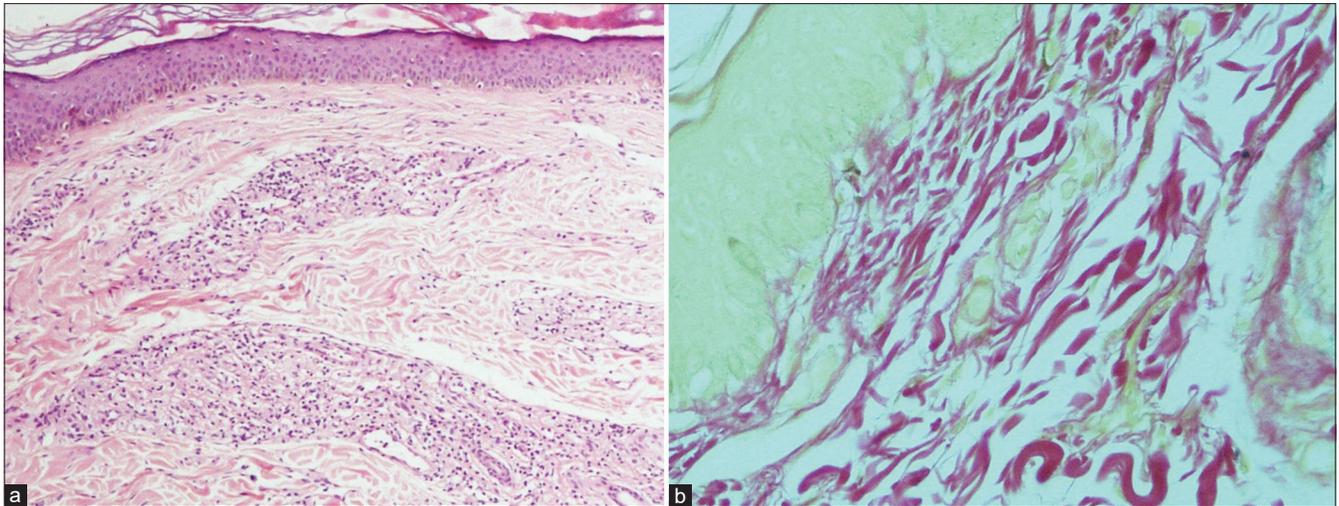
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**Figure 2:** (a) Normal epidermis and peri-vascular and peri-appendageal lymphohistiocytic collection with altered connective tissue fibers in the dermis (hematoxylin and eosin, ×100) (b) Collagen and elastin degeneration in the dermis (elastic van Gieson, ×200)

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