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Perioral Dermatitis with Epithelioid Cell Granulomas in a Woman: A Possible New Etiology

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Abstract. Perioral dermatitis, a distinctive clinical entity yet of obscure etiology, is not uncommonly seen among Saudi middle-aged females. A case of a 30-year-old woman with a perioral lupoid micropapular erythematous eruption is described. Histopathological examination showed evidence of granulomatous sarcoidal reaction similar to that described by Gianotti et al. (3), Gianotti (2), and Georgouras & Koesard (1). Synthetic acrylic fibre meshes widely used by Arabian women to cover their faces, are considered in the etiology of this eruption.

Key words: Gianotti facial dermatitis; Granulomatous sarcoidal reaction; Acrylic fibres

CASE REPORT

A woman, aged 30 years, was examined in January 1978 because of an itchy facial eruption of 3 months' duration and resistant to topical treatment. The eruption had commenced around the mouth and covered the lower half of the face within 2 weeks. The forehead and ears were not involved. The patient stated that this eruption had appeared after the use of new black synthetic meshes to cover the lower half of her face. She did not use any cosmetic preparation.

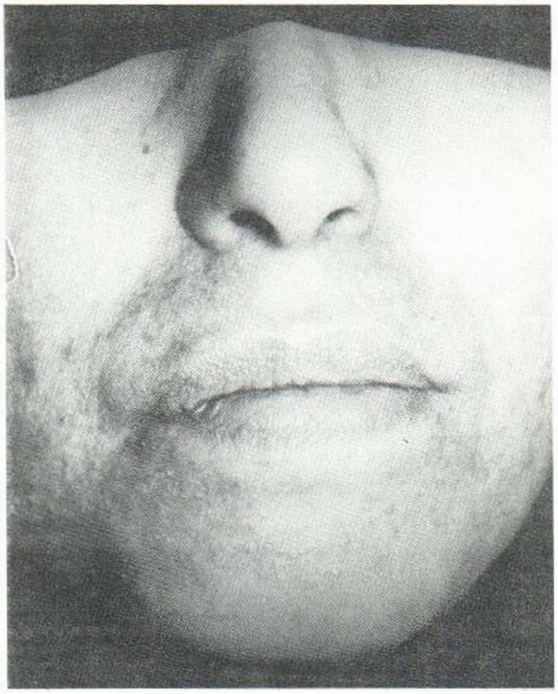

Fig. 1. Perioral dermatitis.

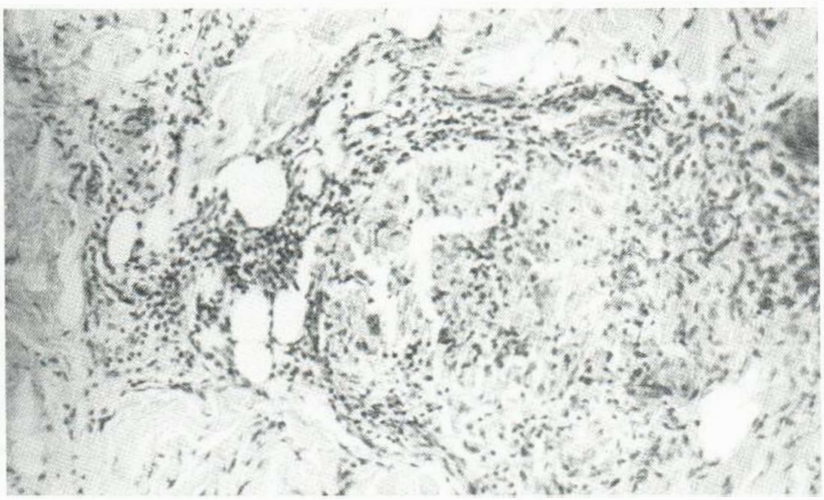

Fig. 2. Epithelioid cell granuloma.

On examination, there was diffuse erythematous papular eruption with scanty small vesicles, but without pustulation or telangiectasia (Fig. 1). The eruption was seen mainly around the lips and on the chin and cheeks. The tip of the tongue showed proliferation of the filiform papillae. The mucous membranes and the skin elsewhere, the nails and hair were clinically normal.

Routine urine and stool examination, ESR, blood sugar, serum electrophoresis and chest X-ray were normal. Porphyrin screen tests, serological tests for syphilis, ANF, and tuberculin and Kveim tests were negative. Patch tests were positive to *p*-phenylenediamine and formaldehyde.

Histopathological examination showed minimal changes in the epidermis in the form of mild acanthosis and parakeratosis. In the dermis, there was discrete epithelioid cell granulomata with perifollicular predominance and scanty Langhans giant cells (Fig. 2). There was no evidence of caseation or acid-fast bacilli. The patient refused biopsy of the tongue lesion.

The patient was advised to avoid the use of the black synthetic meshes and most lesions disappeared within 2 months without any remedy.

DISCUSSION

Among the multifactorial etiology of perioral dermatitis, contact factors should be considered (4). Marks & Black (5) in a histopathological study of 26 cases of perioral dermatitis found neither pathognomonic histological features of the disease nor specific etiological agents to account for it, but they tentatively suggested that the disorder may be provoked or perpetuated by an external irritant of some kind. Sarcoid-like granulomas of the skin have been reported to be produced by acrylic and nylon fibres (6). Gianotti et al. (3) and Gianotti (2) described a particular form of perioral dermatitis occurring in children, with lupoid appearance clinically and sarcoidal reaction in some of the cases histologically. The tuberculin and Kveim tests of their cases were negative. More recently, Georgouras & Kocsard (1) described an interesting case of micropapular sarcoidal facial eruption in a child and postulated that bubble gum was the cause of the eruption. In our case, the diagnosis of perioral dermatitis (Gianotti-type) was considered on clinical and histological bases and other possibilities such as rosacea, sarcoidosis and lupus miliaris disseminatus facei were excluded on the same bases. The eruption in this case may be attributed either to the acrylic fibres or to textile finishers.

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Cockade Naevus: An Unusual Variant of the Benign Cellular Naevus

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Abstract. A patient with benign cellular naevi with unusual target-like morphology is described. Histological and histochemical examination of the lesions showed Dopa oxidase positive cells in the epidermal portion of the tumour but only the naevus cells and keratinocytes at the periphery of the tumour stained for melanin. It is suggested that failure of melanin synthesis is the cause of the target-like appearance.

Key words: Cockade naevus; Naevus, pigmented

Cockade ('flower-like') was the term used by Happle (2) to describe multiple target-like naevi arising on the trunk of an 11-year-old boy. The morphology of these lesions is striking but similar cases have not been reported frequently.