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Atypical Necrobiosis Lipoidica of the Face

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Abstract. A 36-year-old healthy man with atypical necrobiosis lipoidica of the face is described. The lesions were annular with a raised erythematous palpable border. The centres were slightly depigmented and atrophic, without telangiectasia or hair loss. Histopathological changes revealed prominent giant cells in small groups without clear granuloma formation. They were located at all levels of the dermis between the collagen bundles.

Key words: Necrobiosis lipoidica

In 1967 Dowling and Wilson Jones (1) reported an unusual variant of necrobiosis lipoidica appearing on the face and scalp. Later, Wilson Jones (5) enlarged upon this previous report and summarized



Fig. 1. Annular areas with a raised erythematous border and slightly depigmented, atrophic centres.

the clinical and histological findings in a group of 29 patients with this condition. The lesions usually affecting the upper face of women in early middle age showed a striking clinical resemblance to annular sarcoid. The histopathology, however, was distinctive. Although it showed some resemblance to ordinary necrobiosis of the legs in non-diabetics, the facial lesions did not tend to form necrobiotic areas to the same extent but had a greater tendency towards multinucleated giant cell reaction. We recently had the opportunity to observe a male patient who had atypical necrobiosis of the face.

CASE REPORT

A 36-year-old man was referred for investigation in 1973. He had developed six circinate lesions over the forehead

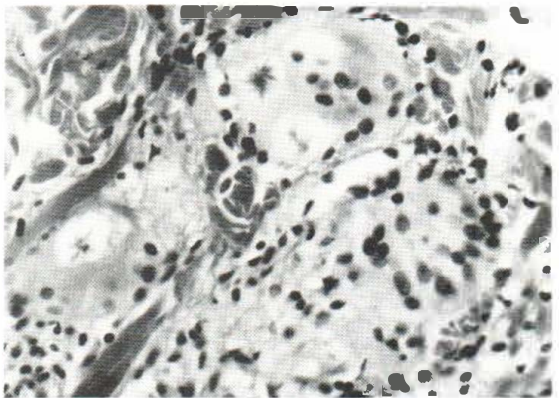


Fig. 2. Large giant cells with asteroid bodies, scattered between the collagen bundles.

Pemphigus Vulgaris in a 15-year-old Girl

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Abstract. Pemphigus vulgaris is uncommon in adolescence and only ten well documented cases in this age group were found in a recent review (5). Because the condition is often more severe in the younger age group it is important to consider it in the differential diagnosis of bullous eruptions of childhood and to perform direct and indirect immunofluorescence studies.

DISCUSSION

Atypical necrobiosis lipoidica of the face is not particularly rare. It is frequently confused with annular sarcoid (1, 5). Miescher's granulomatosis disciformis chronica et progressiva presented as a separate entity in 1948 by Miescher & Leder (3) is nowadays considered as a variant of the necrobiosis lipoidica (2). The fact is that diabetes seems to be a rare occurrence in patients in whom the lesions are present in areas exclusive of the legs. Wilson Jones (5) found diabetes in only one man out of 21 patients with lesions of the face and scalp (of these only two were men). Tappeiner (4) published under the diagnosis of granulomatosis disciformis chronica et progressiva the case of a patient with a lesion limited to the scalp margin which histologically was of the same granulomatous type containing prominent giant cells with asteroid bodies lying loose in the connective tissue. We think that this condition should be designated necrobiosis lipoidica, instead.

CASE REPORT

This female patient was 15 years old when she was referred in March 1976 with a 6-week history of blisters and ulcers in the mouth and a 2-week history of similar lesions



Fig. 1. Flaccid bullae and extensive ulceration on the back.

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