AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

AN UNCOMMON CASE OF ATROPHODERMA OF PASINI AND PIERINI.

Sarah Belanouane [1] - Kenza Baline [2] - Fouzia Hali [2] - Soumia Chiheb [2]

Ibn Rochd Hospital, Dermatology, Casablanca, Morocco [1] - Ibn Rochd Hospital, Dermatology, Casablanca, Morocco [2]

Background: Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini (APP) is an uncommon skin disorder of unknown etiology affecting dermal collagen presenting as asymptomatic single or multiple demarcated hyperpigmented and rarely hypopigmented skin patches with dermal atrophy. APP affects women more than men. Herein, we report a case of hypopigmented APP which successfully responded to phototherapy.

Observation: A 60-year-old woman with no particular personal or family history attended our outpatient department, with multiple, non-pruritic, atrophic, hypopigmented patches on the back, the abdomen and the extremities of one year's duration. Only the face and arms were spared. No signs of scleroderma were apparent. A skin biopsy taken from the atrophic hypopigmented lesion showed, a thinned epidermis, with thickened, tightly packed collagen and a very fragmented elastin bundles in the dermis, with a slight inflammatory perivascular infiltration. The diagnosis of APP was made and the patient was informed about the benign course of the disease. Narrowband ultraviolet B phototherapy was proposed as the first line treatment with a very good response.

Key message: The clinical aspect of the APP is often reported in the litterature as hyperpigmented atrophic patches. However, Saleh et al. showed several new aspects of APP, which were clinically -and like our patient- most commonly hypopigmented and were predominantly located in the extremities.
Some researchers believe that APP should be included as a manifestation of localised scleroderma while others links it to Borrelia burgdorferi infection, which is yet to be confirmed.
The therapeutical approach of APP includes the use of antibiotics, hydroxychloroquine, topical corticosteroids as well as phototherapy and Alexandrite laser with variable outcome in the clinical improvement of the disease. In our case narrowband ultraviolet B phototherapy provided good results.