



MUCOSAL DISEASES (ORAL, ANOGENITAL), EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE

VULVAR LYMPHANGIECTASIA IN CROHN'S DISEASE

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Background: Vulvar lymphangiectases in Crohn's disease can interfere with the patient's social and private life. These lesions are easily misdiagnosed as condylomata or mollusca contagiosa, leading to treatment failure and persisting discomfort.

Our aim is to present our cases as well as to review the published literature in order to promote proper identification and management.

Observation: We report two cases with a new diagnosis of vulvar lymphangiectases in Crohn's disease and we review the literature. A PubMed database search was performed using various combinations of the following terms: lymphangiectasia, lymphangioma, Crohn's disease, Crohn disease, vulvar and genital. Further research was done on the basis of the references and links of the articles found. Relevant publications from the inception of the database until April 2015 were included.

Vulvar lymphangiectasia has been reported in 13 patients with Crohn's disease, including two cases reported and illustrated in this paper. 76 publications were identified which were deemed relevant to this paper: 34 case reports, 9 case series, 12 studies and 21 reviews.

Key message: From this review we conclude that vulvar lymphangiectases may present diagnostic difficulties both to clinicians and histopathologists, resulting in possible misdiagnosis and incorrect treatment. We recommend biopsy of all persistent vulvar lesions with staining for the lymphatic immunohistochemical marker podoplanin/D2-40. This pathology seems to be widely underdiagnosed and underreported. A database of cases would permit long-term follow-up and better assessment of presenting characteristics and treatment options.

