INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

MILKER'S NODULE A DIAGNOSIS TO BE KEPT IN MIND

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Background: The Milker's nodule, also known as pseudocowpox, is an occupational infection caused by paravaccinia. Paravaccinia is a DNA virus, member of the Parapoxvirus genus and Poxvirus family. The Milker's nodule is characterized by violaceous erythematous nodules, that results from contact with cattle, by products or fomites. The diagnosis is based on the clinical findings and epidemiological history, being corroborated by histopathology. Viral particles can be demonstrated by electron microscopy and its genetic sequencing is also possible. Differential diagnoses include: ORF, molluscum contagiosum, pyogenic granuloma, atypical mycobacterioses, anthrax and tularaemia. It is considered as of little sanitary importance (among physicians). However in animals, it makes a differential diagnosis with foot-and-mouth disease and alerts to a careful veterinary evaluation. More recently, the Poxvirus family and Parapoxvirus genus of which paravaccinia virus belongs have been prominent in their role as a vaccine vectors and a potential cure for cancer.

Observation: Male patient, 14 years old, with a history of a grayish nodule on an erythematous base and a violaceous papule on the dorsal region of the quirodactyls, for 15 and 7 days, respectively. Sporadically, he used to go to a farm where he milk and feed the cattle. The clinical diagnostic hypothesis of Milker's nodule was done and corroborated by histopathology. The conduct was expectant/ observational with spontaneous and total regression of the lesions.

Key message: This case should prompt practitioners to be aware of this occupational infection, frequently underdiagnosed due to its self-limited character and professional ignorance. Also, highlight its clinical features, main differential diagnoses and its veterinary relevance, in addition to the promising therapeutic possibilities as vectors for vaccines and oncologic therapy.