

A RARE CASE OF ANGIOMA SERPIGINOSUM

Dr. Satyendra Kumar Singh¹, Dr. Nidhi Singh¹, Dr. Tulika Rai¹, Dr Ayushi Bohara¹

¹Department of Dermatology & Venereology, B.H.U

Corresponding Author:

Nidhi Singh

Abstract

Angioma serpiginosum, a rare vascular nevoid disorder due to ectatic dilation of capillaries in the papillary dermis, is found almost exclusively in females. Affected individuals tend to have grouped erythematous punctate lesions on the lower limbs or buttocks.

Key words: Angioma serpiginosum, vascular nevoid disorder

Introduction

Angioma serpiginosum, a rare vascular nevoid disorder due to ectatic dilation of capillaries in the papillary dermis, is found almost exclusively in females. It was first described by Hutchinson in 1889.^[1] Affected individuals tend to have grouped erythematous punctate lesions on the lower limbs or buttocks.

Case Report

A 26 year-old man presented to our dermatology department, with complaint of asymptomatic red, non raised skin lesions over left half of the neck, left upper part of abdomen and penis for 11 years. The patient's and family medical history were unremarkable. On examination there were well areas of multiple, small, asymptomatic, non-palpable, red punctate macules organized in small sheets over left side of neck, left upper part of abdomen and penis (figure no.1 & 2). Laboratory investigations like complete blood count, liver function test, renal function test, bleeding time and clotting time were within normal limit. Histopathologic examination of skin biopsy from abdomen, revealed multiple areas of congested dilated capillaries in the papillary dermis (figure no.3).

Discussion

Angioma serpiginosum is a rare, benign, acquired, vascular nevoid condition. It has female preponderance and mainly affects lower extremities and buttocks. The condition is an asymptomatic. It usually starts in early childhood and stabilizes in adults. It is rarely undergo complete spontaneous involution. Clinically, lesions are copper to bright red, punctate, non-blanchable or partially blanchable, grouped macules that may develop into papules with a background of erythema. Lesions enlarge by developing new lesions at the periphery with clearing of lesions in the center and this leads to a serpiginous or gyrate ring like morphology.^[2]

It has no known etiology. Estrogen was considered to be an

important hormone in the development of angioma serpiginosum supporting the role of hormones for the cause of increased incidence of angioma serpiginosum in women.^[3] However, recently, the role of hormones in its pathogenesis was disproved due to the absence of estrogen and progesterone receptors on the involved blood vessels.^[4]

Another proposed etiology is an abnormal vascular response to cold that manifests as formation and aggregation of newly formed capillaries that leads to large ectatic vessels in the papillary dermis.^[1] Though rare it may also occur in men, as in our case.^[5] There are rarely any reports in literature of angioma serpiginosum that involves genitalia and neck. We are reporting this case because of its rarity and atypical presentation.

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Figure 1: Sheet of red macule over left side of neck.



Figure 2: Sheet of red macule over left upper aspect of abdomen.

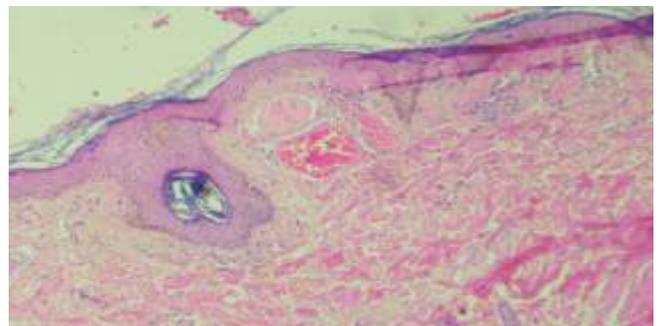


Figure 3: Congested dilated capillaries in papillary dermis. (HPE 100×)