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Case report: reticular erythematous mucinosis spontaneously resolved after melanoma excision

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Introduction & Objectives:

Reticular erythematous mucinosis (REM) is a rare form of cutaneous mucinosis, which most often affects middle-aged women. It characterized by edematous papules developing on the trunk, oftenly forming a kind of net-like lesions. The exact cause of REM remains unknow, some cases were found in association with systemic lupus erythematosus diabetes mellitus, malignancies, and thyroid disease.

Materials & Methods:

A 33-year-old female presented with 6-month history of persisting lesion on the chest, slowly growing with no pruritis. The lesion was found as 4-santimeter slightly scaly pink plaque with scalloped borders, located on the right breast. No fungi were detected by UV-lamp examination and microscopic examination as well. As a result of full body examination, a suspicious pigmented lesion on the back was found. Dermoscopy showed pink-brown 4-millimeter small plaque with a dark brown peripheral pigment network. Skin biopsy was recommended both for inflammatory plaque and pigmented lesion. Patient skipped the recommendation and came then after three years with markedly changed pigmented lesion which was identified as superficial spreading melanoma of the back. The lesion presented as asymmetrical 8-millimeter spot with extremely dark brown atypical pigment network and peripheral pseudopods. Pathology report after excision confirmed the diagnosis of melanoma. The lesion on the breast enlarged up to 8-santimeter plaque with marked infiltration – the punch biopsy was performed. Histopathological examination found out perivascular lymphocytic infiltrates and mucin deposits, which confirmed clinical diagnosis of REM. The patient was recommended to use topical steroids, avoiding Hydroxychloroquine because of planning for pregnancy.

Results:

Patient used Methylprednisolone aceponate cream during 14 days with minor changes of the lesion color, then no treatment has been performed. Six weeks after melanoma excision the REM lesion resolved completely with no treatment. No recurrence has been reported during two years of follow-up.

Conclusion:

Malignant tumours of the skin could be considered as one of REM underlying causes. Further clinical trials needed.