

Acropustulosis of Infancy in Yemeni Infants and Children

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Abstract

Background: Infantile acropustulosis is a recurrent, self-limited, pruritic, vesicopustular eruption of the palms and the soles occurring in young children during the first 2-3 years of life. Newly described in 1979, it is probably much more common than the scarcity of reports would imply.

Objective: The objective of the study was to identify the pattern of pruritic vesicopustular skin eruptions in Yemeni infants.

Patients and Methods: Twenty-five male and females Yemeni infants' patients 1 to 3 years old presented with pruritic erythematous macules or papules that progress into vesicles and then pustules in the palms, the soles, and the lateral surfaces. Lesions may occur on the dorsal aspects of the hands and the feet as well as the trunk, the scalp, and the face. The intensity and the duration of attacks diminish with each recurrence. No other organ systems are involved. They treated with topical Betamethasone cream or ointment and systemic antihistamine. The skin biopsy followed by histopathological examination was not specific.

Results: The clinical data and the investigations showed that the 25 Yemeni infants had acropustulosis.

Conclusion: Acropustulosis of infancy in Yemeni infants is very common skin disorder. The bad hygiene may play an important role in the etiology or allergic substances. It is not recurrence.

Comment

The classic history of infantile acropustulosis is an infant aged 2-12 months developing recurrent crops of pruritic erythematous macules or papules that progress into vesicles and then pustules. Lesions typically follow this progression over the course of 24 hours [1]. Onset is usually in the first 3 months of life but lesions may sometimes be present at birth. Children are fretful, irritable, and obviously uncomfortable, but otherwise healthy. Lesion are intensely pruritic and individual bouts of infantile acropustulosis last 3-14 days and recur in 2- to 4-week intervals. The attacks occur with progressively diminishing numbers of lesions, and with decreasing frequency, until they cease altogether [2-5]. This typically occurs within 2 years of onset. Often, children have been empirically treated with antiscabies medicines prior to presentation, and some have been treated with topical or oral antibiotics as well. The intensity and the duration of infantile acro-

pustulosis attacks diminish with each recurrence. Children with acropustulosis may be misdiagnosed with bacterial infections, hand-foot-and-mouth disease (Coxsackievirus or Enterovirus infection), or dyshidrotic eczema. Acropustulosis of infancy is characterized by recurrent outbreaks. Lesions begin as crops of small macules or papules that eventually form distinct, no coalescing vesicles and pustules. Lesions occur in an acral distribution, usually involving the palms, soles, and lateral surfaces of the digits. Less frequently, lesions may occur on the dorsal hands, feet, trunk, scalp, and face. They resolve with desquamation followed by post inflammatory macular hyperpigmentation. No other organ systems are involved. (Figure 1 and 2) [6-10]. Secondary bacterial infection of excoriated lesions may occur. A unilocular, sub corneal, or intraepidermal pustule containing polymorphonuclear neutrophils or eosinophils in the upper epidermis and extending into the stratum corneum is characteristic

in infantile acropustulosis. Papillary dermal edema and a mild perivascular, mostly lymphocytic, infiltrate in the dermis may be present. (figure 3). Treatment is often not needed. The following are sometimes prescribed Topical steroids Oral antihistamines

Dispone, for difficult cases and permethrin cream 2,5 mg and crotamiton cream. Appropriate workup for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency should be considered before prescribing oral dapsone, owing to the risk of hemolysis [11-18].



Figure 1: Pustules



Figure 2: Pustules

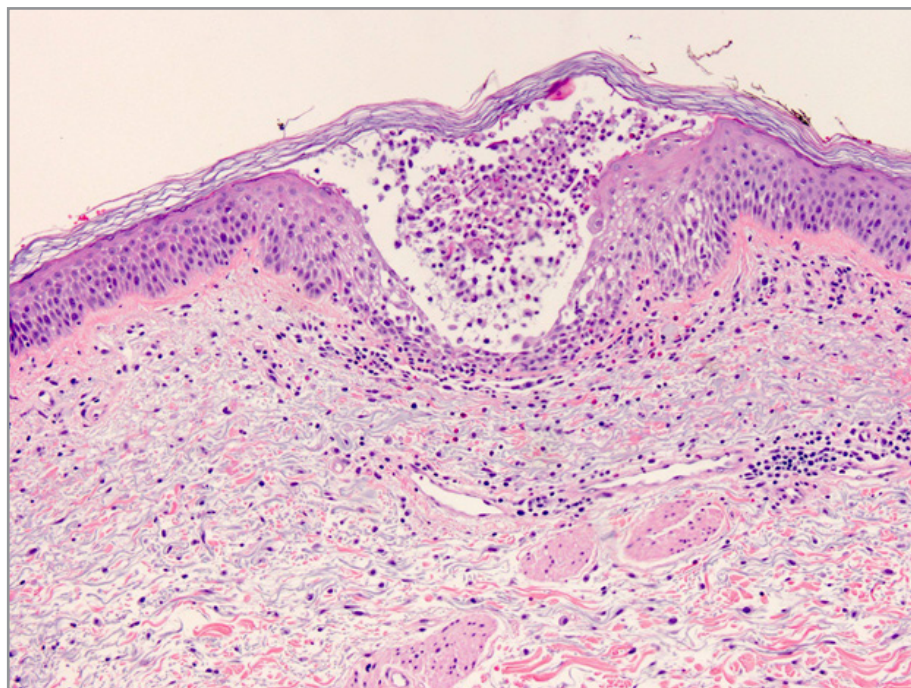


Figure 3: Sub Corneal or Intraepidermal Pustule

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