Unusual manifestation of terra firme-forme dermatosis – upper eyelid and orbital rim

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ABSTRACT

Terra firme-forme dermatosis is a benign exogenous dermatosis found in all age-groups. The typical localizations include neck, face, trunk and ankles. Here we report on an 88-year-old male with a medical history of stroke and paraplegia of the legs who presented with asymptomatic, hyperkeratotic and slightly hyperpigmented lesions on his upper lids. Wiping of skin with alcohol pads completely removed the lesions confirming the diagnosis of terra firme-forme dermatosis of upper eyelids. Although affection of lower eyelids has reported before, the localization on upper eyelids only is very unusual.

Key words: Terra firme-forme dermatosis; Dirty dermatoses; Skin care; Hygiene; Dermatosis negelecta

INTRODUCTION

Terra firme-forme dermatosis is a benign skin disorder also known as dermatitis neglecta, unwashed dermatosis or Duncan’s dirty dermatosis [1-3]. It is characterized by asymptomatic dirt-like plaques with typically localization on neck, face, trunk and ankles [4-6]. Its etiology is not completely understood. Retention of keratinocytes in combination of sebum, residues of ointments and dirt contribute to hyperpigmented lamellar and partially whorled orthohyperkeratosis [1]. All ages can be affected [3,7].

CASE REPORT

An 88-year-old male patient presented to the department for surgical correction of severe phimosis and secondary balanoposthitis. His medical history was positive for stroke and paraplegia of the legs. He lived in a nursery.

By clinical examination hyperkeratotic, slightly hyperpigmented plaques and scales were observed on his upper lids and orbital rim (Fig. 1). There was no pruritus or any other subjective symptom. There were no clinical signs of seborrheic dermatitis or tinea. The lesions could easily be removed by wiping with alcohol pads. The diagnosis of terra firme-forme dermatosis was confirmed.

Here, we describe the rare upper lid affection of an 88–year-old male patient with a positive SMART test. Because of the localization, other dermatoses need to be considered such as atopic and seborrheic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea and tinea [10].
Although a rare localization, upper lids and orbital rim can be affected by terra firme-forme dermatosis. SMART test is an easy way to exclude other possible differential diagnoses.

**CONSENT**

The examination of the patient was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki principles.