Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini a variant of morphea?

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Sir,

Pasini described the skin disease in 1923 [1], and, a few years later, in 1936 Pierini and Vivoli reported the same disorder [2]; for many years it has been known as atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini (APP). In 1958 the name APP was replaced by other terms, such as atrophic scleroderma d'emblee and dyschromic and atrophic variation of scleroderma [3], suggesting that APP could be a variant of scleroderma. In 1995 a new classification of scleroderma has been published and APP was considered a form of localized plaque morphea [4,5]. Furthermore, Buechner and Rufli simply stated that APP should be considered as an "abortive, primarily atrophic variant of morphea" [6] and, in the view of Amano et al, APP and morphea should be regarded as "similar nosologic entity" [7].

Figure 1: Atrophic lesions like "footprints in the snow".

	Atrophoderma Pasini Pierini	Morphea
Other names	Atrophic scleroderma d'emblee dyschromic and atrophic variation of scleroderma	Localized scleroderma
Incidence	Unknown (less than 100 cases published)	0.4- 2.7/ 100 000 [8]
Age of onset	Early onset Adolescents-young adults	Late onset third-fifth decades
Gender predominance	Female predominance 6:1 [9]	Female predominance unpublished ratio
Clinical features	"Inverted plaque" depressed lesions "footprints in the snow" (Fig. 1) lack of inflammation absence of induration of the skin	Ivory, indurated plaque with lilac ring (Fig. 2) Inflammation, erythema, edema
Distribution of the lesions	most frequently on the trunk chest, abdomen, limbs	no
Color of the lesions	commonly hyperpigmented hypopigmented or skin colored	Ivory plaque with lilac ring bruise-like pink
Symptoms	Asymptomatic extremely rare pruritus, paresthesia	Asymptomatic
Number of lesions	multiple, disseminated	single or multiple plaques
Size of the lesions	few mm to several cm	few to several cm
Histology	Reduced thickness of the dermis Atrophy, sclerosis, hyalinization or fragmentation of the collagen bundles normal sweat and sebaceous glands	Diffuse sclerosis of the dermis Horizontalisation and thickening of collagen bundles in the hipodermis Inflammatory infiltrate in the 'lilac ring' area atrophic sweat and sebaceous glands

During all these years pro and cons have been published concerning the relation between APP and morphea.

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Figure 2: Ivory, indurated plaque with lilac ring.

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