

A febrile exanthem revealing COVID-19

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Sir,

We report the case of a 74-year-old male with no previous medical history admitted to the emergency department for an acute itchy febrile generalized rash present for the last three days. The patient reported no recent history of drug ingestion. A clinical examination revealed a generalized maculopapular exanthem (Figs. 1 and 2) and a fever of 39°C. There was no hypotension or respiratory symptoms. RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 was positive and serology revealed positive IgM and negative IgG. Normal paraclinical examinations and a thoracic CT scan revealed that 10% of the lesions were CO-RADS 6.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, numerous have authors described skin manifestations associated with COVID-19, including morbilliform and roseoliform exanthems [1], maculopapular rashes on the face, generalized hives [2,3], and rashes such as chickenpox [4-5], but erythema multiforme and purpuric rashes [6] have also been reported in the scientific literature [7] and in medical social networks [8]. These eruptions are, indeed, known to be associated with viral infections and are commonly referred to as viral rashes or paraviruses. However, they are not specific to SARS-CoV-2 and may also lie in other causes, especially in drugs. Patients affected by COVID-19 are, indeed, likely to develop unwanted responses to drugs administered for infections (including carrying drugs and anti-infectives) causing secondary skin reactions at any time during the evolution of the disease.

Consent

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



Figure 1: An exanthem on the right lateral aspect of the thorax and abdomen.



Figure 2: An exanthem on the anterior aspect of the thorax.

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms, in which the patients gave their consent for images and other clinical information to be included in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due effort will be made to conceal their identity, but that anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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