

Case Report

MYCOSES FUNGOIDES IN A CHILD - A RARE CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Mycosis fungoides (MF) is the most frequent disease among cutaneous T-cell lymphomas, usually arising in mid to late adulthood (median age 55-60 years) with a male preponderance of 2:1. Clinically, it is categorized as patch, plaque or tumour stage, but patients may simultaneously have more than one type of lesion. The distribution classically favors non-sun exposed sites with the bathing trunk and intertrigenous areas in the early course of the disease. Hypopigmented MF is a variant of patch MF, the most common presentation in dark individuals. Patients respond to therapy by repigmentation, and the reappearance of hypopigmented lesions often indicate a relapse.

Keywords: *Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas, Lymphoproliferative Disorders, Mycosis Fungoides, Hypopigmented MF*

INTRODUCTION

Primary cutaneous lymphomas (PCL) belong to a heterogeneous group of malignant lymphoproliferative neoplasms, affecting primarily skin without any system involvement at the time of diagnosis (Willemze *et al.*, 2005; Naeini *et al.*, 2015). MF is the most common PCL, comprising 44%–62% of all cases. It usually affects mid to late adult-hood with median age of diagnosis being 55-60 years³ (Fatemi Naeini *et al.*, 2015) and male preponderance of 2:1. The incidence of primary cutaneous lymphomas is estimated to be 1:1,00,000 according to WHO (Willemze *et al.*, 2005). Primary cutaneous lymphomas are very rare in children and adolescents with mycosis fungoides being the commonest.

CASE

A 9years old boy presented with multiple asymptomatic light coloured, flat lesions for 4years, initially developed over the abdomen, which gradually increased in number and size to involve the whole body more over covered areas of the body. No history of itching, burning sensation, pain, loss of appetite, weight loss and decreased sensations over the lesions. No history of seasonal variation or remissions. Patient was shown to dermatologist for similar lesions on abdomen 4 years back for which he was diagnosed as pityriasis alba, and he was given topical mild steroids and emollients, but the lesions didn't subside. On examination, multiple ill to well defined hypopigmented macules of varying sizes from 2mm x 3mm to 5cm x 4cm with mild scaling and atrophy over few macules present bilateral and non-symmetrical over trunk, upper arms, forearms, thighs, and legs except face (Fig: 1,2,3,4). Cervical nodes were enlarged, firm, mobile, non-tender. Routine investigations were normal. Ultrasonography showed cervical lymphadenopathy and mesenteric lymphadenopathy. Skin biopsy taken from hypopigmented patch over abdomen which showed psoriasiform hyperplasia in the epidermis, numerous small and large lymphocytes without much spongiosis, toy soldier pattern alignment of lymphocytes along the basement membrane and sparse superficial perivascular infiltrate of lymphocytes (Fig: 5,6). With this diagnosis was made as a patch stage of mycoses fungoides, and the patient was started on narrow-band UVB therapy weekly thrice and methotrexate 7.5mg once weekly.

DISCUSSION

Mycoses fungoides is the result of intrepidermal and superficial dermal infiltration by malignant T-cells (Soro *et al.*, 2013). Hypopigmented MF is a rare variant of patch stage MF and is frequently reported in dark skinned individuals (Soro *et al.*, 2013). Clinically, it is categorized as patch, plaque or tumour stage, but patients may simultaneously have more than one type of lesion. The distribution

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Figure: 1



Figure: 2

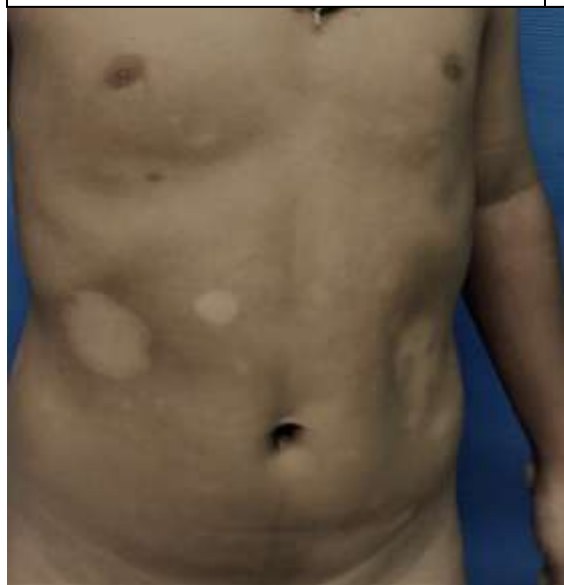


Figure: 3



Figure: 4

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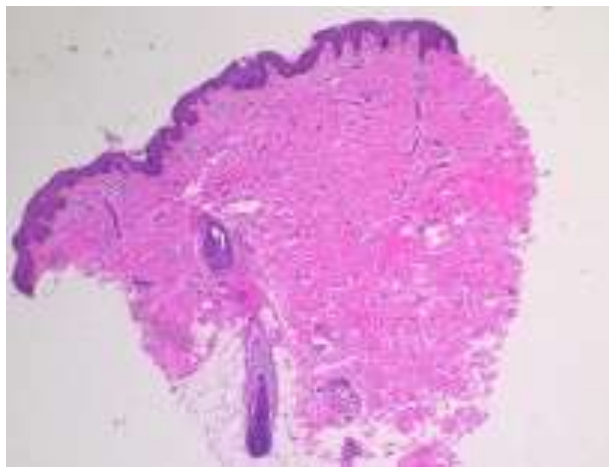


Figure: 5

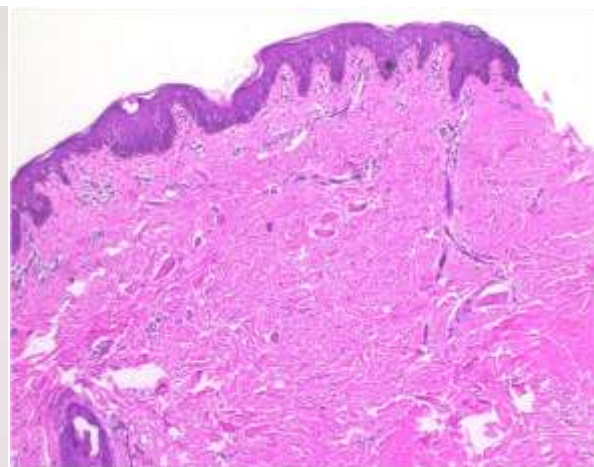


Figure: 6

classically favors non-sun exposed sites with the bathing trunk and intertrigenous areas in the early course of the disease (Pimpinelli *et al.*, 2005). The hypopigmented variant of MF is commonly reported among young age group (Kazakov *et al.*, 2004; Akaaraphanth *et al.*, 2000; and Alsaleh *et al.*, 2010). The presence of hypopigmentation is a marker of good prognosis than the classical form. Patients respond to therapy by repigmentation, and the reappearance of hypopigmented lesions often indicate a relapse.

CONCLUSION

As mycosis fungoides commonly resembles many benign disorders and due to the rarity of presentation in children, it is easily misdiagnosed or lately diagnosed.

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