

Erythema Nodosum – An Unusual Presenting Feature of Leptospirosis

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A 55 year old woman presented with fever, generalized aches and reddish itchy lesions on her lower limbs of 4 days. She had no remarkable medical illness in the past. On examination was febrile, had tender thigh muscles and subconjunctival hemorrhages; other systemic examination was normal. She had discrete reddish raised well circumscribed tender lesions (image 1) over her legs, which varied from 1-3 cms in diameter, characteristic of erythema nodosum.¹ Investigations showed neutrophilic leukocytosis and thrombocytopenia with normal renal and liver biochemistry. She had proteinuria; presence of casts and pus cells in urine; and serum Ig-M for leptospira was positive. A diagnosis of leptospirosis was made using Modified Faine's criteria². Erythema nodosum, inflammation of subcutaneous fat or panniculitis, is a self-limiting immunogenic reaction and usually resolves within 3–6 weeks from onset.¹ Leptospirosis is an emerging and fatal infection commonly seen in tropics with a wide variety of manifestations. Only two cases of its association with erythema nodosum have been found in literature, this report being the first from Asia.^{3, 4}.



Image 1. Erythema nodosum seen over the left shin.

References:

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