

A CASE OF BULLOUS SCABIES

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SUMMARY

There are several descriptions in the literature of atypical clinical manifestations of scabies and there have been rare reports of pemphigoid-like bullous scabies. This case report describes a 78-year-old male who had been treated 6 months earlier for scabies and who came under our observation due to the onset of erythematous-bullous lesions on his legs and soles. The patient complained of severe pruritus and presented lesions due to scratching on his trunk and back, and isolated burrows on his palms and soles. Routine biochemical and immunologic tests revealed only an increase in total serum IgE. Histological examination performed on a bullous lesion showed detachment of the epidermis at the dermo-epidermal interface and a perivascular infiltrate rich in eosinophils. Direct and indirect immunofluorescence tests were negative. Scraping tests for mites performed on plantar and on the palmar lesions were positive for scabies. A diagnosis of bullous scabies was consequently made and topical treatment with classic acaricides was implemented, leading to complete remission within 15 days.

This case seems worth to be noted because of the rarity of the clinical features and because of the strong resistance of skin lesions to conventional topical therapy.

KEY WORDS

scabies, bullous, pemphigoid-like

INTRODUCTION

There are several reports in the literature of atypical clinical manifestations of *Sarcoptes scabiei* infestation suggestive of contact dermatitis, Darier's disease, dermatitis herpetiformis, urticaria (1), impetigo, tinea, folliculitis, psoriasis, pityriasis rosea, syphilis, xanthoma, histiocytosis, lymphomas, or insect bites (2). To our knowledge, reports on scabies with

bullous pemphigoid-like manifestations are rare (1-7). This report describes a case of bullous scabies that recently came under our observation.

CASE REPORT

A 78-year old male in fair general health came under our observation due to the onset of erythematous bullous lesions containing blood and

