

VERRUCOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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ABSTRACT

Chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus is a cutaneous expression of lupus erythematosus including a broad spectrum of clinically and histopathologically distinct types of lesions. Among them the verrucous or hypertrophic type represents an uncommon cutaneous manifestation resembling clinically as well as histopathologically keratoacanthoma or verrucous lichen planus. The course of the disease is – in most but not in all instances — marked by chronicity, absence of regression and resistance to treatment. The diagnosis is based on clinicopathologic findings. We herein present a patient with a longstanding history of DLE with keratoacanthoma-like verrucous lesions on both forearms and hands.

KEY WORDS

discoid lupus erythematosus, verrucous lupus erythematosus, keratoacanthoma-like lupus erythematosus

INTRODUCTION

Verrucous lesions in patients with discoid lupus erythematosus were first mentioned in the literature by Bechet in 1940 (1). However, the clinical, histopathologic, immunofluorescent and ultrastructural features were studied in detail by Uitto et al. nearly 40 years later (2,3)

CASE REPORT

A 42-year-old man presented with several verrucous lesions on the dorsal aspects of both forearms and hands resembling keratoacanthomas.

Histopathology (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) revealed irregular epidermal hyperplasia with hypergranulosis and compact orthohyperkeratosis. There was also a slight vacuolar degeneration of the basal layer and, in addition, few necrotic keratinocytes were present in the epidermis. In the upper dermis a rather dense lichenoid infiltrate of lymphocytes was observed. PAS staining showed a thickened basement membrane. The histopathologic differential diagnoses included keratoacanthoma, lichen ruber verrucosus, prurigo nodularis, verruca vulgaris, and verrucous lupus erythematosus.

Clinical correlation revealed that the patient had, besides the verrucous lesions on the hands (Fig. 3), also skin lesions on the face and neck typical for

