Intralymphatic Histiocytosis

Emilio Garcia-Mouronte¹, Borja Diaz-Guimaraens¹, Emilio de Dios Berna-Rico¹, Miguel Dominguez-Santas¹

¹ Dermatology Department, Ramon y Cajal University Hospital, Madrid, Spain

Case Presentation

An 87-year-old man presented to our Dermatology department with a history of 1-year-long asymptomatic erythematous plaques on his left shoulder. He referred he had been previously diagnosed from severe osteoarthritis on this location. Moreover, he denied taking regular medication, exposure to heat or suffering from any other medical condition.

Dermatological examination showed 2 mm wide serpiginous erythematous plaques with a vascular anatomic distribution on the anterior side of his left shoulder (Figure 1). Neither cervical nor axillary adenopathies were detected. After taking a punch-biopsy, a diagnosis of intralymphatic histiocytosis was established.

Teaching point

Intralymphatic histiocytosis is a benign proliferation of histiocytes within lymphatic vessels [1]. Although its etiopathogenesis has not yet been clearly elucidated, it has been associated to several chronic inflammatory and degenerative disorders, such as osteoarthritis [2]. Thus, Dermatologists should take into account this entity whenever they are facing serpiginous erythematous plaques with a vascular distribution on a persistent swollen joint.

Figure 1. 2 mm wide serpiginous erythematous plaques with a vascular distribution on the left shoulder.
References
