

## Comedonal Plaque on the Face

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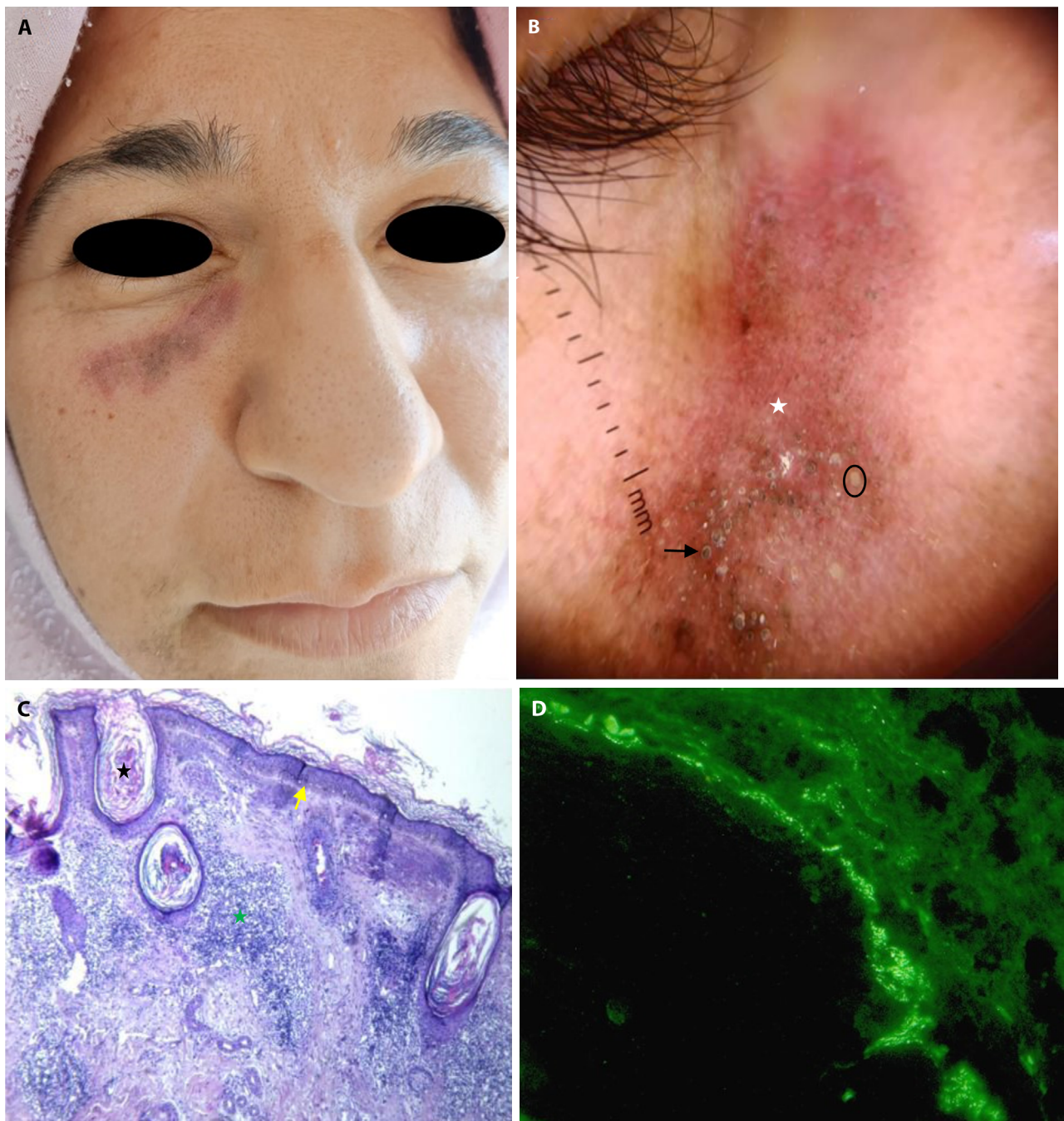
### Case Presentation

A 48-year-old woman, with no medical history, presented with a unilateral asymptomatic facial lesion that had been evolving for 3 years. Dermatological examination revealed a linear erythematous plaque with open comedones on the surface, located on the right infraorbital region (Figure 1A). The rest of the physical examination was unremarkable. Dermoscopy revealed brownish keratotic plugs, milia-like cysts and telangiectatic vessels on an erythematous background (Figure 1B). Histopathological examination of a skin biopsy showed keratotic plugs and comedones, epidermal atrophy, vacuolar degeneration of the basal layer and dense perivascular and periadnexal lymphocytic infiltrate (Figure 1C). Direct immunofluorescence revealed the presence of IgM, IgG, IgA and C3 deposits at the dermal-epidermal junction (Figure 1D). These findings were consistent with the diagnosis of comedonic lupus (CL). Antinuclear antibodies were

positive (1:80), while systemic assessment results were negative. Hydroxychloroquine and sunscreen were prescribed.

### Teaching Point

CL is a rare variant of chronic cutaneous erythematous lupus with a risk of systemic progression [1]. It usually appears as an erythematous pruritic comedonal plaque, on seborrheic regions, at the age of 25 to 35 years<sup>1,2</sup>. Although histopathological assessment is mandatory, dermoscopic examination can be useful to refine the diagnostic approach. Differential diagnoses include nevus comedonicus, Favre-Racouchot syndrome, lichen follicularis and acne vulgaris. Treatment is mainly based on photoprotection and oral hydroxychloroquine. Other treatments can be used such as minocycline, oral or topical retinoids and intralesional or topical corticosteroids<sup>1</sup>.



**Figure 1.** (A) Infraorbital erythematous plaque with open comedones on the surface. (B) Dermoscopic image (DermLite DL4, polarized mode) showing brownish keratotic plugs (black arrow) and milia-like cysts (black circle) on an erythematous background (white star). (C) Histological examination showing keratotic plugs and comedones (black stars), vacuolar degeneration of the basal cell layer (yellow arrow), periadnexal inflammatory infiltrate (green star) (H&E, x40). (D) Positive *lupus band* test on direct immunofluorescence.

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