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Dermoscopic findings in a case of plasma cell cheilitis[☆]



Dear Editor,

Plasma Cell Cheilitis (PCC) is a rare inflammatory disorder of unknown origin within the spectrum of plasma cell mucositis. Clinically, it manifests as a circumscribed, flat to slightly raised, eroded erythematous plaque or patch involving the lower lip of elderly male patients.¹ Histopathologically, dense band-like plasma cell infiltration in the upper dermis is seen.² Dermoscopic features of this entity have been described in only one report.³ Here we report a case of refractory PCC and its dermoscopic features.

An otherwise healthy 52-year-old man, an agricultural worker, was referred to our hospital with a ten-year history of painful erythematous erosion on the lower lip. Physical examination revealed an erythematous plaque with diffuse desquamation along with erosions and crusts (Fig. 1A). Dermoscopy showed a well-defined lesion with the milky-red structureless area, small erosions, and multiple enlarged linear vessels on the periphery with a radial distribution. Scales although present on a small focus of the lesion was not a predominant feature (Fig. 2). Laboratory tests, including complete blood counts and tests for liver and renal function, showed normal findings, and hepatitis B and C and HIV infection was negative; PPD; chest X-Ray; thyroid

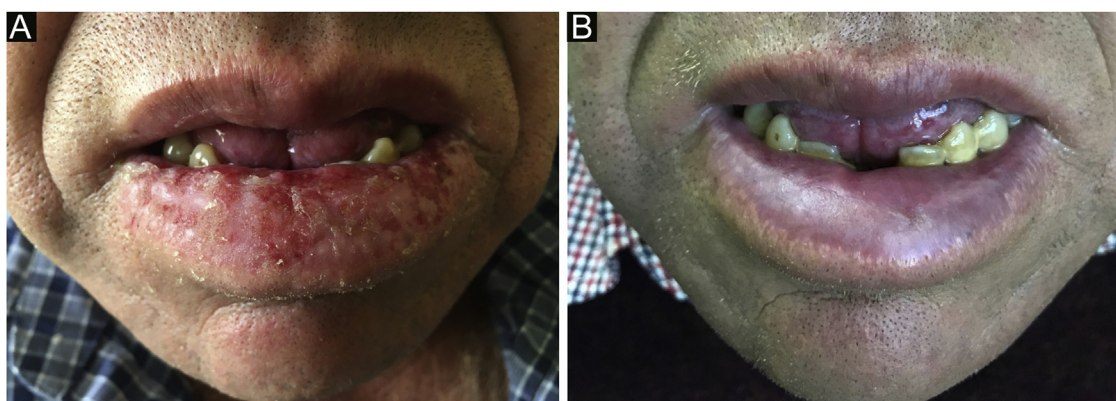


Figure 1 (A) The lower lip shows a diffuse xerotic erythematous plaque with erosions and hemorrhagic crusts. (B) Clinical improvement after 7-days of treatment with oral prednisone.

[☆] Study conducted at the Hospital Regional Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins, Rancagua, Chile.

tests and protein electrophoresis were in normal ranges. Histopathology showed a partially ulcerated pluriestratified epithelium with parakeratosis, without atypia, with pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia (Fig. 3A). The dermis showed foci of chronic inflammatory infiltrate with abundant plasma cells (Fig. 3B), macrophages, and areas of granulation tissue. The immuno-histochemical study revealed CK AE1/AE3 (-), CD68 (+) in membrane and macrophage cytoplasm, staining positive Kappa (Fig. 3C) and Lambda chains (Fig. 3D). The patient began treatment with high potency topical and intralesional corticosteroids, with little response. After the use of oral prednisone at a dose of 1 mg/kg/day, he presented total remission of the lesion on the seventh day (Fig. 1B). However, the lesion constantly recurs during tapering. Treatment with topical calcineurin inhibitors was not possible due to economic concerns.

One of the main differential diagnoses in the context of our patient was Actinic Cheilitis (AC) or even progression to Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC). Dermoscopy could be a useful tool to help differentiate these entities. We found some similarities between our case and the previously reported regarding border regularity and vascular enlargement and proliferation.³ Other important characteristics found in this case were the milky-red background in the entire lesion with some focal erosions, the absence of stellate border and scales (features suggestive of AC), and radial distribution of the enlarged lineal vessels on the periphery. More reports are needed to establish clear-cut criteria to aid in the clinical differentiation of these entities.

Although PCC is considered a benign disorder is usually refractory to various topical treatments, including topical and intralesional corticosteroids, topical calcineurin inhibitors, antibiotics, and antifungal agents.^{1,2} It is unclear whether PCC may represent a precursor lesion of malignancies such as SCC.⁴ Therefore, careful follow-up is recommended.



Figure 2 Dermoscopy of PCC shows a sharply demarcated borders with milky-red structureless area (asterisk), small erosions (white arrow), and multiple enlarged linear vessels on the periphery with a radial distribution (black arrow); a small focus of white scale on the inferior aspect of the lesion is also seen.

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Authors' contributions

Daniella Truffello: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; critical literature review; data collection, analysis, and interpretation; intellectual participation in propaedeutic and/or therapeutic management of studied cases; study conception and planning.

Carolina Cevallos: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; critical literature review; effective participation in research orientation; manuscript critical review;

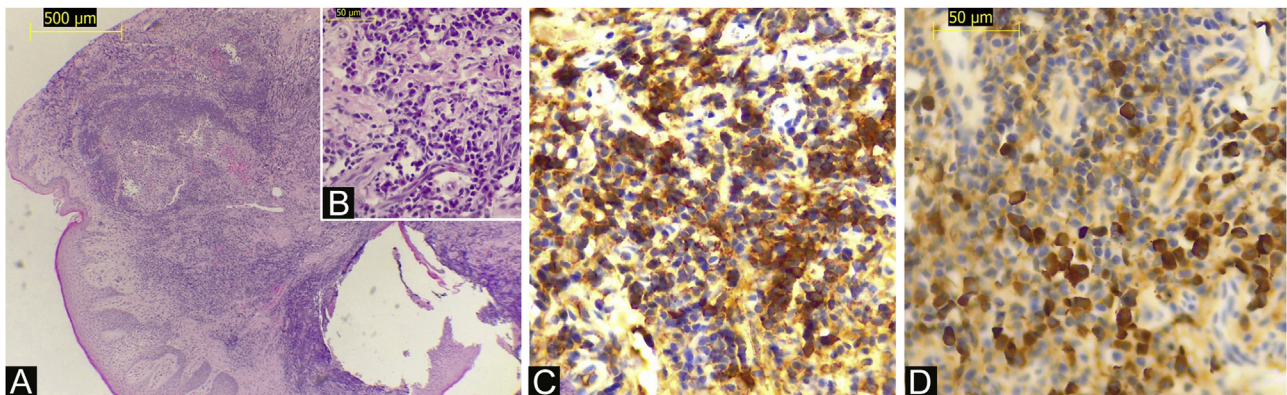


Figure 3 (A) A biopsy specimen shows a flattened squamous epithelium with parakeratosis without atypia, with pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia (Hematoxylin & eosin, $\times 100$). (B) A high-power view shows a dermal chronic inflammatory infiltrate with abundant plasma cells (Hematoxylin & eosin, $\times 400$). (C) A diffuse strong positivity for kappa light chain is noted in the plasma cell infiltrates (Immunohistochemistry, $\times 400$). (D) Plasma cells are also positive for lambda light chain (Immunohistochemistry, $\times 400$).

preparation and writing of the manuscript; study conception and planning.

Claudio Escanilla: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; critical literature review; effective participation in research orientation; intellectual participation in propaedeutic and/or therapeutic management of studied cases; manuscript critical review; study conception and planning.





Pauline Morgan: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; data collection, analysis and interpretation; intellectual participation in propaedeutic and/or therapeutic management of studied cases.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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Insect bite-like reaction in a patient with T-cell lymphoma[☆]



Dear Editor,

Insect Bite-Like Reaction (IBLR) is a rare skin disorder, which is associated with hematologic malignant neoplasms such as leukemia and malignant lymphoma.¹ Hematologic malignant neoplasms are derived from B cells in most cases.² We herein describe a rare case of IBLR in Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) patient, a type of T-cell lymphoma. To our knowledge, this is the third report of IBLR associated with T-cell lymphoma.

An 84-year-old male was diagnosed with ALK-negative ALCL and treated with chemotherapy (a combination of pirarubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisolone) in a hospital, which produced complete remission. Two years later, he visited a clinic complaining of pruritic nodules on his hands and back. Biopsy taken from a nodule on his hand revealed prominent lymphocytes in the epidermis, around blood vessels and sweat glands in the dermis as well as diffuse eosinophil infiltration (Fig. 1), and he was diagnosed with Prurigo Nodularis (PN).

He visited the same clinic again complaining of nodules with mild pruritus on both cheeks four months after the first visit (Fig. 2). Physical examination showed red or skin color circular nodules of 10 mm in diameter. Laboratory tests showed anemia (hemoglobin 10.0 g/dL), normal levels of eosinophils (688 μ L), and slightly elevated levels of lactate dehydrogenase (289 IU/L) and soluble interleukin-2 receptor (750 U/mL). There was no data about serum IgE antibodies. ALCL did not recur at that time. A biopsy from one of the nodules revealed prominent infiltration of lymphocytes, which were mostly CD4 positive non-neoplastic T cells, and eosinophils mainly around blood vessels and sweat glands in the dermis and subcutaneous tissue (Fig. 3). The possibility of a recurrence of ALCL was excluded because CD30 positive neoplastic T-cells were not revealed. He was diagnosed with IBLR. Topical corticosteroid for one month led to the improvement of the skin lesions. Epstein-Barr virus-encoded small RNA in situ hybridization was not detected in either specimen of PN or IBLR.

Skin eruptions are common in patients with hematologic malignant neoplasms. Barzilai et al first reported a case of IBLR in which the patient presented with pruritic red papules, nodules, and plaques without insect bite.¹ IBLR is also called "eosinophilic eruption of hematoproliferative disease", "exaggerated insect bite reaction", or "hypersensitivity to insect bite". Most cases of IBLR are associated with hematologic malignant neoplasms derived from B cells, especially Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

[☆] Study conducted at the Fukushima Medical University, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.