

Images in Infectious Diseases

Erythema induratum of Bazin

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Here we present the case of a 70-year-old female born in Rio de Janeiro with a histopathological clinical diagnosis made September, 2018, of non-endemic pemphigus foliaceus. Treatment with prednisone (1mg/kg/day) with remission. In 2021, asymptomatic ulcers appeared on the patient's right lower limb in the areas indurated due to panniculitis (**Figures 1, 2**). Clinical-epidemiological data of age, gender, venous insufficiency, obesity, and immunodepression supported the diagnosis of erythema induratum of Bazin (EIB).

A fragment of ulcer biopsy in the histopathology showed a granulomatous dermohypodermatitis with tissue necrosis and the presence of alcohol-acid resistant bacilli (AARB) by WADE stain and a bacilloscopy negative for AARB by Ziehl-Nielsen stain. The culture result was negative for mycobacteria; however, an ulcer swab for GenExpert detected *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

EIB affects mainly middle-aged obese women that have venous insufficiency. Recurrent, violaceous, ulcerated, and painful nodules on the calves are the cutaneous manifestations^{1,2}. The association with tuberculous infection has been demonstrated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification for *M. tuberculosis* DNA in skin biopsy specimens^{1,2}.

The GenExpert® MTB/RIF test is useful to distinguish tuberculosis from infections with atypical *Mycobacterium*. A positive result does not necessarily indicate the presence of viable organisms. In cutaneous tuberculosis, the specificity/sensitivity in the different tests are as follows: PCT GenExpert (98.4%/69%), culture (98%/23%), bacilloscopy (100%/14%)³.

Misdiagnosis of EIB in daily practice is likely, as cutaneous tuberculosis can mimic several dermatoses. EIB may need longer treatment periods, mainly in cases of recurrent episodes².



FIGURE 1: Ulcers with well-defined edges and surrounding erythema, covered by fibrin on the lower leg.

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FIGURE 2: Clean ulcers over indurated plaques after antibiotic therapy on the lower limb.

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