



Image in medicine

Urticaria multiforme, an “erythema multiforme” simulator[☆]

Urticaria multiforme, un simulador de «eritema multiforme»

Ignacio Torres-Navarro^{a,*}, Antonio Sahuquillo-Torralba^a, Rafael Botella-Estrada^{a,b}^a Servicio de Dermatología, Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe, Valencia, Spain^b Departamento de Dermatología, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Valencia, Valencia, Spain

Figure 1.

A 56-year-old woman who came to the Emergency Department due to a few-hours' history of intensely pruritic rash and fever of 38.6 °C. She had been diagnosed with pharyngitis and had received treatment with amoxicillin (500 mg every 8 h).

The oropharyngeal examination showed erythematous tonsils without plaques or exudates. She had oedematous annular plaques with central clearance and elevated erythema-oedematous margins (Fig. 1A and B). The lesions were predominantly found in the trunk and abdomen, extending to the proximal part of the limbs (Fig. 1C). It associated urticarial plaques in the neck with extension to the chin (Fig. 1D, arrows).

Urticaria multiforme (UM) was diagnosed, probably triggered by antibiotic and/or viral tonsillitis.

UM is a subtype of acute urticaria, histologically identical to this one and so named because of the similarity of its lesions with erythema multiforme (EM). UM is a benign and self-limiting process that usually responds to oral antihistamines. It is more common in infants and young children and can be triggered by a feverish process (especially viral infections), drugs (e.g., amoxicillin or paracetamol) or vaccines.

EM, contrary to UM, presents with a general deterioration, fixed polymorphous skin and mucous membrane lesions, absence of oedema and, histologically, interface dermatitis with vacuolation of the basal layer and keratinocyte necrosis.

[☆] Please cite this article as: Torres-Navarro I, Sahuquillo-Torralba A, Botella-Estrada R. Urticaria multiforme, un simulador de «eritema multiforme». Med Clin (Barc). 2018;151:e41.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: ignaciotorresnavarro@gmail.com (I. Torres-Navarro).