

Demoscopy Sheds Light on Perioral Lesion Mimicking Herpes

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Received: March 13, 2024

Published: August 01, 2024

Observation

A 31-year-old woman with a niece who was treated for a venous malformation consulted us for management of a perioral lesion that had been present since childhood. She had been treated with valacyclovir as an herpes on several occasions without improvement. Our examination revealed vesicles grouped in clusters with hemorrhagic content in the perioral area. Dermoscopy revealed red lacunae and a hypopyon aspect, leading to the diagnosis of perioral microcystic lymphangioma. We decided to treat her with a vascular laser.



Figure 1: Presence of red vesicles clustered in a bouquet at the peribuccal level.



Figure 2: Dermoscopy of the peribuccal lesion reveals red lacunae with the hypopyon sign.

Teaching Point

Diagnosing lymphangioma circumscriptum is usually straightforward based on its clinical presentation and behavior. While the majority of cases exhibit typical features, there may be instances of solitary lesions or atypical appearances. Dermoscopy plays a crucial role in ensuring an accurate diagnosis, with common dermoscopic features including lacunae, vascular structures, white lines, and the hypopyon sign [1-3]. Lacunae manifest as multiple, clustered, well-defined, and variably colored structures with a round to oval shape [1]. Additionally, the hypopyon sign may be observed, characterized by a two-tone lacuna or a color transition from dark (at the bottom) to light (at the upper part) within the same lacuna. This phenomenon is attributed to blood sedimentation in the dilated lymphatic channels [1-3]. The presence of the hypopyon sign and lacunae strongly indicates lymphangioma circumscriptum, underscoring the significance of a comprehensive dermoscopic examination in cases of chronic lesions that resist typical treatments. It is crucial not to misinterpret any perioral lesion with vesicles as a simple case of herpes

Consent: The examination of the patient was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki principles.

Conflict of Interest: The authors do not declare any conflict of interest.

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