

Case Report

Venous Lakes of the Face

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Abstract

Venous lakes are defined as frequent and benign venous ectasia. They commonly affect sun-exposed areas in the elderly people. We report a case of 82-year-old women with a multiple venous lakes of the face.

Keywords: Multiple; Venous lakes; Face

Case Presentation

A 82-year-old women, with a history for intense sun exposure during childhood. She consulted for appearance two years ago of multiple asymptomatic purplish nodular lesions on the face.

The clinical examination revealed multiple dark blue to purple nodules of variable size, well circumscribed, compressible on palpation, disseminated on the face (Figure 1). Dermoscopic examination revealed purple lacunae (Figure 2).

In the histopathological findings, there were large vascular channels lined by a single layer of endothelial cells or a thin wall of fibrous tissue compatible with the diagnosis of venous lakes.

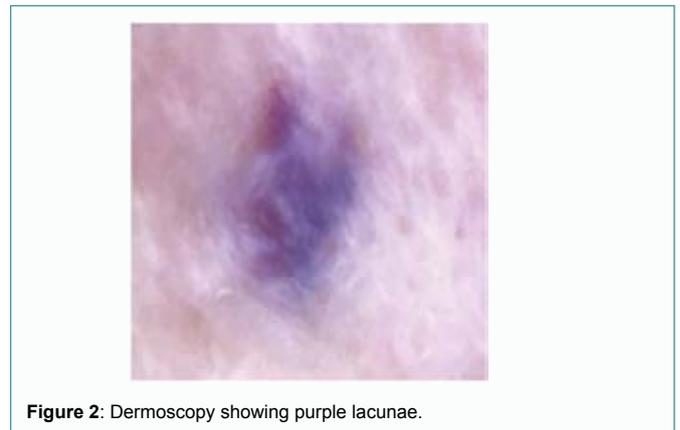


Figure 2: Dermoscopy showing purple lacunae.

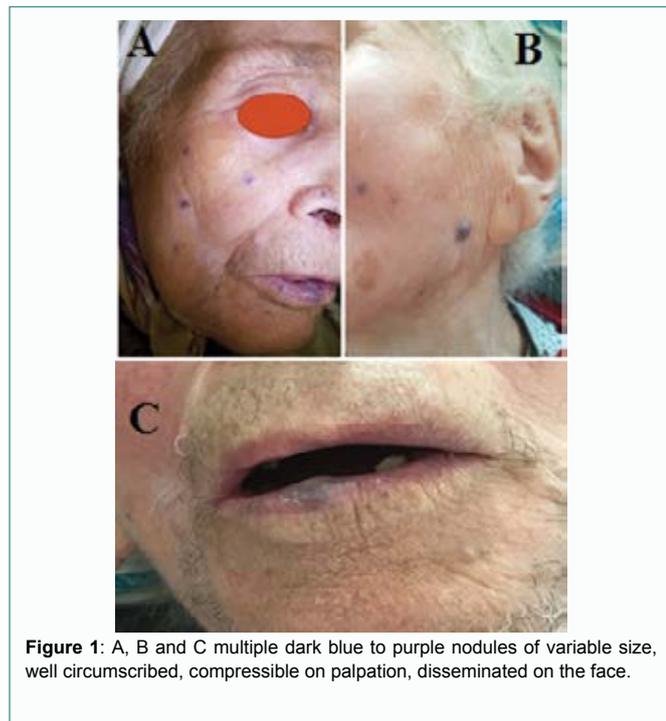


Figure 1: A, B and C multiple dark blue to purple nodules of variable size, well circumscribed, compressible on palpation, disseminated on the face.

Discussion

Venous lakes were first described by Bean and Walsh in 1956 [1].

Clinically, they present as dark blue-to-violaceous compressible papules secondary to focal dilation of venules. They occur most often in sun-exposed areas such as the face, lips, ears, neck and back of the hand of elderly people.

The pathogenesis of venous lake remains unclear. The hypothesis of sun damage to the walls of the superficial veins was suggested [2].

Histologically, venous lakes describe large vascular channels lined by a single layer of endothelial cells or a thin wall of fibrous tissue.

The main differential diagnosis includes blue naevus and malignant lesions, such as melanoma and pigmented basal cell carcinoma.

Treatment options include surgery, cryotherapy and laser.

Conclusion

Venous lakes are benign vascular lesions, and it is necessary to distinguish venous lake from other non-melanocytic tumors.

Contributions of Authors

All authors contributed to the writing of this article. The authors also state that they have read and approved the final version.

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