Sudden eruption of multiple Meyerson naevi

Sandra Jerkovic Gulin1*, Jaka Rados2,3, Davorin Loncaric2,3, Romana Ceovic2,3, Branka Marinovic2,3

1 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, General Hospital Sibenik, Sibenik, Croatia
2 University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
3 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia

Abstract: We present a case of a young patient presenting with a six-month history of multiple squamous pink and light brown papules surrounded by symmetrical eczema on the trunk. Dermoscopy revealed light brown structureless and avascular lesions with an erythematous scaly halo. The patient denied the presence of naevi on the sites of the newly emerging changes. Histopathology revealed acanthotic epidermis and linear clusters of morphologically normal naevi cells in the upper dermis, infiltration of lymphocytes, plasma cells, eosinophils and mild spongiosis in the dermis. Topical betamethasone/gentamicin ointment twice daily for 10 days was prescribed. The erythematous scaly area around lesions completely disappeared on the follow-up visit after six months. This is a unique case of a sudden appearance of newly formed multiple benign dermal naevi with Meyerson phenomenon—the sudden eruption of multiple Meyerson naevi.

Keywords: Meyerson phenomenon; halo eczema; multiple Meyerson naevi

Introduction

Meyerson phenomenon (MP), also called halo eczema or halo dermatitis, is a rarely reported halo of inflammation around a pre-existing melanocytic or nonmelanocytic lesion, affecting one or more lesions at the same time. When MP occurs around a benign pigmented nevus, it is called Meyerson naevus[1,3]. MP has been reported encircling different lesions including naevus flammeus[4,5], acquired melanocytic naevus[1], congenital melanocytic naevus[6,7], seborrhoeic keratosis, stucco-keratosis, keloid, benign lentigo, insect bite, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma[8], dermato-fibroma[9], atypical naevus[10], and melanoma[10-13]. The pathogenesis of MP is still not well understood. Some reported data suggest that the mechanism includes the interaction between CD4+ T-cells and increased expression of intercellular cell adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1)[14] as well as the involvements of Langerhans cells[10] and the T-lymphocytes lacking the interleukin-2 receptor[15].

Case presentation

An 18-year-old male patient presented with a six-month history of multiple (15 lesions) scaly, pink and light brown papules (diameter 1–2 mm) surrounded by symmetrical eczema (2–4 mm) on the trunk (Figures 1 and 2). Dermoscopy revealed light brown structureless and avascular lesions with an erythematous scaly halo (Figures 3). Severe itching occasionally occurred. The patient denied the presence of naevi on the sites of the newly emerging changes. His past medical record was
unremarkable, he had no personal or family history of atopy, and he was not on any medication. Our differential diagnoses were guttate psoriasis, pityriasis rosea, and pityriasis lichenoides et varioliformis acuta. In order to determine the correct diagnosis, we performed a biopsy of the lesion on the back. Histopathology revealed acanthotic epidermis and linear clusters of morphologically normal neavi cells in the upper dermis, infiltration of lymphocytes, plasma cells, eosinophils and mild spongiosis in the dermis (Figures 4 and 5). The diagnosis of multiple eruptions of Meyerson naevi was confirmed, and topical betamethasone/gentamicin ointment twice daily for ten days was prescribed. The erythematous scaly area around the lesions completely disappeared on the follow-up visit after six months.

Discussion

Only a few cases in the literature report multiple benign Meyerson naevi in young adults, but in all cases, MP occurred on pre-existing melanocytic lesions\[1,14\]. We present a unique case of a sudden appearance of newly formed multiple benign dermal naevi with MP—the sudden eruption of multiple Meyerson naevi. Although MP is a mostly benign and transient condition, close examination of every lesion should be performed so that malignant lesions are not missed.

Author contributions

All authors have made individual contributions to the writing of the article, have been involved in the patient’s care and gave final approval of the version to be submitted.
Sudden eruption of multiple Meyerson naevi

Figure 5. Histopathology: infiltration of lymphocytes, plasma cells, eosinophils and mild spongiosis in the dermis (H&E 40X)

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

References