Venous Lakes of the Face

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Abstract

Venous lakes are benign vascular lesions that result from dilated venules. They commonly affect sun-exposed areas. They may appear de novo, accompanied or revealed other pathologies that need to be researched.

We report a case of a 82-year-old women with a multiple venous lakes of the face.

Keywords: Multiple; Venous Lakes; Face.

Case Report

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.

Discussion

Venous lakes were first described by Bean and Walsh in 1956 [1]. They manifest as dark blue-to-violaceous compressible papules caused by dilation of venules. They commonly appear on sun-exposed areas such as the face, lips, ears, neck and back of the hand of elderly people.

The pathogenesis of venous lake is still not completely under-

Figure 1. A, B, C multiple dark blue to purple nodules of variable size, well circumscribed, compressible on palpation, disseminated on the face.
stood. The most likely cause is severe sun damage to the walls of the superficial veins [2].

Histopathological study shows one to several dilated spaces with erythrocytes, and the lesions have very thin, fibrous walls.

Although benign, venous lakes may occasionally be confused with 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 lesions, and it is necessary to distinguish venous lake from other non-melanocytic tumors.

References