



Case 1



Nodules on Penis

A 22-year-old male presented to the clinic with a ten week history of a gradually developing intense pruritic eruption on the trunk, arms, hands, legs and penis. Pruritus is worse at night, and one of his brothers has similar complaints. On his penis, brownish-red nodules are present on the shaft and scrotum.

Questions

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. Scabies, a mite skin infestation. *Sarcoptes scabiei* is spread by skin-to-skin contact and causes a generalized intractable pruritus with frequent secondary bacterial infection.
2. Apply antiscabetic cream for 12 hours; however, application on the head should be avoided. Clothes and bedding should be thoroughly washed. All these measures should be taken by all family members.

Provided by: Dr. Jerzy Pawlak, and Mr. Pawel Utko

Share your photos and diagnoses with us!

Do you have a photo diagnosis? Send us your photo and a brief text explaining the presentation of the illness, your diagnosis and treatment and receive \$25 per item if it is published.

The Canadian Journal of Diagnosis
955, boul. St. Jean, Suite 306
Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 5K3

Email: diagnosis@sta.ca
Fax: (888) 695-8554

Case 2



Cystic Tongue Lesion

A 12-year-old boy presents with a cystic lesion on the ventral surface of the tongue. The mass is asymptomatic. There is no history of trauma.

Questions

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. What is the significance?
3. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. Mucocele of the gland of Blandin-Nuhn
2. A mucocele is caused by a traumatic severance or blockage of a minor salivary gland duct. Severance leads to mucin extravasation and submucosal retention of the mucus secretion. On the other hand, obstruction of a minor salivary gland duct results in a retention cyst. Typically, a mucocele presents as a painless, fluctuant, tense, cystic mass on the mucosal surface of the lower lip. Rarely, a mucocele may arise on the ventral surface of the tongue, and is known as a mucocele of the gland of Blandin-Nuhn. The glands of Blandin-Nuhn are located on the ventral surface of the tongue, close to the apex and midline. These glands are arranged in a horseshoe-shaped mass and covered by thin mucous membrane. The lesion thus appears as a blister or cyst. In most cases, a mucocele of the gland of Blandin-Nuhn results from a self-inflicted bite wound.
3. Mucocele of the gland of Blandin-Nuhn usually ruptures spontaneously, with complete healing in one to two days. As such, no treatment is necessary.

Provided by Dr. Alexander K.C. Leung; and Dr. Alexander G. Leong

Case 3




White Scaly Rash

An otherwise healthy 17-year-old girl presents with white, scaly, diffuse patches on her chest, back and abdomen. The rash is non-pruritic and first appeared in the summer months.

Questions

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. How is it diagnosed?
3. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. Tinea versicolor is a fungal infection of the skin caused by the pityrosporum yeast. It is a component of normal skin flora, with greatest concentration in areas with high sebaceous activity. Endogenous factors (*e.g.*, pregnancy, OCP) or exogenous factors (*e.g.*, humidity) can cause the yeast to convert from buds to mycelia, leading to the rash. It is more commonly seen in young adults, due to high sebaceous activity in this age group.
2. Obtain a scraping of the scale, and prepare a potassium hydroxide wetmount to diagnose. Microscopic examination reveals hyphae and clusters of budding cells (with spaghetti-and-meatballs pattern). Wood's light exam shows fluorescence of pale yellow-to-white asymmetric lesions.
3. Topical treatment is best for limited disease. Choices include ketoconazole 2% shampoo, selenium sulfide suspension 2.5%, terbinafine spray solution, or topical antifungal creams. Oral treatment is indicated in patients with widespread disease, frequent recurrences or those who do not improve with topical treatments. One treatment regimen is ketoconazole 200 mg q.d. for five days. For prophylaxis, itraconazole 200 mg b.i.d., on one day per month for six months, has been shown to be effective. 

Provided by: Dr. Andrea Herschorn, and Dr. Charles Lynde