

Koebner phenomenon in a severe pemphigus vulgaris

Fenômeno de koebner em pênfigo vulgar grave

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We report a case of a 66-year-old female patient with pemphigus vulgaris (PV), confirmed by histopathology and direct immunofluorescence. She had extensive blistering covering 65% of her body surface. During hospitalization, a linear blister lesion appeared, suspected to be due to the Koebner phenomenon (KP) given the patient's report of frequent scratching (Figs. 1-3).

KP refers to the development of new lesions in previously unaffected skin following trauma or physical irritation. While KP is commonly observed in conditions such as psoriasis, lichen planus, and vitiligo, it is rarely reported in autoimmune bullous diseases like PV¹. A PubMed search yielded 17 articles on "KP AND pemphigus," though only a few were relevant. Reports include KP in PV after surgical procedures, face mask use during the COVID-19 pandemic and other minor traumas². Occasional cases of KP are also reported in Darier's disease, erythema multiforme, lupus erythematosus, and pemphigus, but it remains rare in autoimmune bullous disorders³.

This case highlights the importance of recognizing KP as a potential complication in PV, especially given its rarity. Awareness of KP in autoimmune bullous disorders can aid in early identification and management, potentially preventing further disease exacerbation.



Figure 1. Extensive blistering covering all gluteal regions.



Figure 2. Linear blister lesion on right shoulder.

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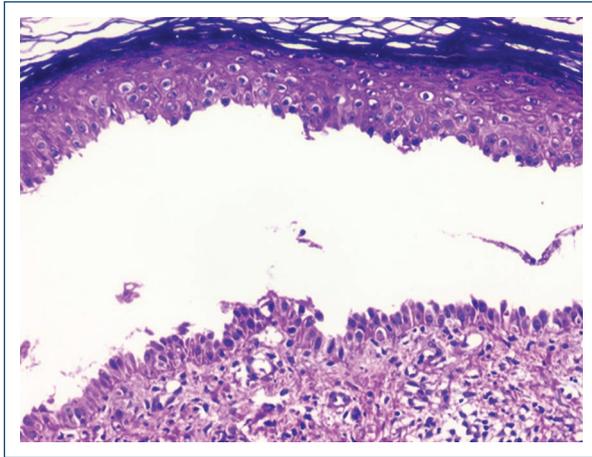


Figure 3. Hematoxylin-eosin stain ($\times 400$) of skin biopsy demonstrating suprabasal acantholysis.

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Conflicts of interest

None.

Ethical considerations

Protection of humans and animals. The authors declare that no experiments involving humans or animals were conducted for this research.

Confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical approval. The authors have followed their institution's confidentiality protocols, obtained informed consent from patients, and received approval from the Ethics Committee. The SAGER guidelines were followed according to the nature of the study.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence. The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence was used in the writing of this manuscript.

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