

Superficial Lymphangitis after Insect Bite

A 10-year-old girl was referred to our department for the evaluation of a 'bizarre' pruritic linear eruption of the anterior wall of the trunk that appeared 1 day after an insect bite on the abdomen. Physical examination showed 2 bilateral and symmetric red streaks starting from round erythematous macule of the abdomen and extending toward the axillary folds, disposed in a V-shaped fashion (**Figure 1**). Neither fever nor lymph node enlargement were present. Dermoscopy of the main erythematous macule showed the presence of a centered hemorrhagic and crusted punctum (**Figure 2**), compatible with the insect bite. Based on the history and on the characteristic disposition of the lesions, a diagnosis of insect bite-induced superficial lymphangitis was made. The patient was successfully treated within 7 days with topical corticosteroids and oral antihistamines.

Superficial lymphangitis after insect bite is a rare occurrence, representing a particular variant of acute lymphangitis without fever and lymphadenopathy.¹⁻³ To date, only a few cases have been described.¹⁻³ Marque et al¹ hypothesized that superficial lymphangitis after insect bite is the result of an immunoallergic reaction due to toxins injected, which would be drained by lymphatics and determine a linear-fashioned superficial inflammatory reaction of the overlying skin. ■



Figure 1. V-shaped erythema of the anterior wall of the trunk.

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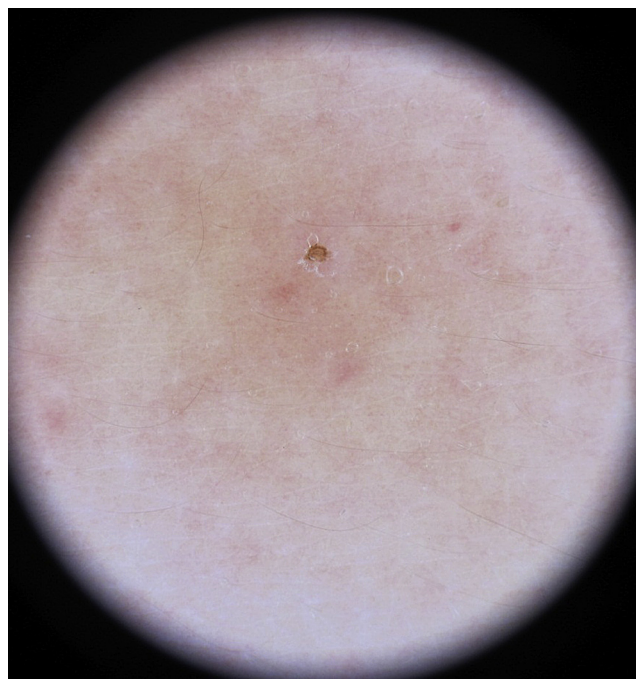


Figure 2. Dermoscopy of the main erythematous macule showed the presence of a centered hemorrhagic and crusted punctum.

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