

Giant hyperplastic molluscum contagiosum

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SUMMARY

Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a common viral infection of the skin in healthy children. Unfortunately, it may be seen in exuberant form in children and adults with leukemia or other types of immunodeficiency, including the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. It usually appears as a solitary or small group of papules which are characteristically flesh colored, slightly translucent and umbilicated. We report a case of a 40-year-old AIDS patient with multiple keratotic, papillomatous projections on his anterior neck, some resembling cutaneous horns. A skin biopsy specimen revealed the presence of numerous molluscum bodies.

Introduction

Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a common viral infection of the skin and mucous membranes of healthy children (1,2). Unfortunately, it may be seen in exuberant form in children and adults with leukemia or other types of immunodeficiency, including the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (2-4). It usually appears as a solitary or small group of papules which are characteristically flesh colored, slightly translucent and umbilicated (1,4-6). Our patient was remarkable in that he had MC, some in the form of multiple hyperplastic cutaneous horns.

Report of a case

A 40 year-old Black man was seen for multiple growths of the face and neck of one year's duration. The patient had a history of AIDS with a CD4 count of 22. He was not on antiretroviral therapy. One year prior to our examination, he had developed "growths" on his face and neck. They were non-painful, non-pruritic, and slowly but continuously growing. Occasionally, one would rupture and extrude a white, foul-smelling substance. A dermatologist previously excised several of these lesions. Three months earlier, he had developed a red, scaly rash around his nose extending to his

KEY WORDS

molluscum
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