Images in Rheumatology

A Case of Rowell Syndrome Manifested on Hands: Targetoid-like Lesions and Nailfold Capillaries

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Rowell syndrome is the occurrence of erythema multiforme-like lesions in patients with cutaneous lesions of lupus erythematosus.1 We present a young female patient with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), whose hand lesions exhibited both connective tissue disease–related periungual angiotelectasis and the typical erythema multiforme.

A 15-year-old girl presented with a 7-year history of SLE and her condition is under control after oral administration of prednisone and methotrexate (MTX). Four months prior, her hands exhibited chilblain-like erythema. Physical and dermoscopy examinations revealed both typical targetoid-like lesions and obvious nailfold capillaries2,3 in both hands (Figure A). Serum antinuclear antibody (ANA) was 1:320 with speckled pattern. According to the diagnostic criteria by Zeitouni et al,1 patients with (1) SLE, (2) erythema multiforme-like lesions, and (3) speckled pattern of ANA, combined with chilblain-like erythema, can be diagnosed with Rowell syndrome. At present, the patient is being treated with topical glucocorticoid, oral administration of prednisone and MTX, and injections of belimumab.

REFERENCES

Figure. (a) Typical targetoid-like lesions and (b) obvious nailfold capillaries in both hands.