Unusual local cutaneous reactions to insulin injections: A case report

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Abstract

In this report unique clinical and histopathological patterns following insulin injection are illustrated. A 45 years old Saudi diabetic female presented with multiple tender, erythematous papules. Histopathologically neither of the features of arthus nor delayed type allergic reaction were present. Dermal blood vessels were intact and there was an inflammatory infiltrate, mainly with neutrophils and occasional eosinophils. Pigment incontinence an RBC extravasation were evident. In addition, there was an eosinophilic amorphous material in the mid and deep dermis. This case was thought to be a biphasic reaction to insulin or other additive or contaminant in the injection with a peculiar clinical pattern. A more or less similar picture was described in 1982 by de Shazo et al as conforming to features of the late phase reactions.

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