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Cutaneous Atypical Mycobacteriosis After Ultrasound Hydrolipoclasia Treatment

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Excerpt

Ultrasound hydrolipoclasia is a form of mesotherapy in which physiological solution is injected subdermally before ultrasound application; it is an off-label treatment for localized fatty areas. A 28-year-old white woman presented with painful erythematous-secreting nodules in her abdomen for 1 week. The nodules were located where a non-physician performing another service had applied an ultrasound hydrolipoclasia treatment 1 month before (Figure 1). She reported that four other women who had received this sort of intervention on the same day and in the same aesthetic clinic were presenting with the same symptoms. The patient did not experience systemic symptoms.

The diagnostic hypothesis was atypical mycobacteriosis. A biopsy of one lesion was performed, and cultures of the smear and of the biopsy specimen were prepared. The culture of the smear isolated Mycobacterium

fortuitum, and a histologic examination revealed dermal chronic inflammation with alcohol-acid-resistant bacilli present at the Ziehl-Nielsen stain.

Treatment was performed with 100 mg of doxycycline twice a day for 6 months, resulting in complete remission of the erythema and secretions and involution of the lesions. Because skin palpation demonstrated remaining nodules, a topical betamethasone dipropionate ointment was prescribed during the last month of antibiotic treatment, which resulted in improvement of the skin texture.

Six months after the final treatment, the lesions were atrophic, with an appearance resembling stretch marks (Figure 2A). To improve this condition, we submitted the scars to five weekly sessions of intradermotherapy with 0.5% silanol salicylate. Injections were performed beginning with 1 mL of silanol salicylate, in consecutively decreasing amounts, until filling of the scar was visually evident.

After the intradermotherapy treatment, some improvement in skin texture was noted (Figure 2B), and the patient was satisfied.

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