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An Unusual Skin Finding Giving a Clue to the Etiology of Stroke

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Keywords

Livedo racemosa; Sneddon; Sneddon's

Clinical Image

There should be a careful search for the etiology of stroke in children and teenagers. Here we describe the skin finding of livedo racemosa that helped us diagnose Sneddon syndrome in a young woman presenting with a stroke. The etiology of stroke in children and teenagers needs to be carefully determined to aid in secondary prophylaxis. One such is etiology is Sneddon syndrome, that presents with the characteristic skin finding of livedo racemosa. To collate this report we reviewed the patient's electronic medical record and performed a relevant literature search. An 18 year old woman presented with acute-onset expressive aphasia, headache, and hypertension. Skin examination revealed violaceous hyper pigmentation in a net-like pattern involving the abdomen and all four extremities, consistent with livedo racemosa (Figure 1). Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) demonstrated an acute ischemic lesion of the left posterior frontal and anterior temporal cortex, as well as previous infarct involving the right parietal cortex. She was diagnosed with Sneddon syndrome which is a rare, non-inflammatory thrombotic vasculopathy characterized by recurrent cerebrovascular ischemic lesions, livedo racemosa and frequent migraines. The syndrome predominately affects women in their 3rd or 4th decade of life, however can affect children as young as 10 years old. There is no definite biomarker butanti-phospholipid antibodies are occasionally present [1-3].

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Figure 1: Skin examination revealed violaceous hyper pigmentation in a net-like pattern involving the abdomen and all four extremities, consistent with livedoracemosa.

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