Case Report

An Unusual Presentation of Sarcoidosis in a Chinese Woman

Carmen TK Ho and Raymond WS Wong

Abstract: Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disorder that commonly involves the lung, eye, lymph nodes and skin. Cutaneous involvement is present in up to 35% cases of systemic sarcoidosis and is broadly classified into specific and non-specific lesions according to the presence of typical non-caseating granulomas histologically. Sarcoid specific lesions include a number of cutaneous manifestations but subcutaneous involvement is uncommon. We report on a Chinese woman who initially presented with fever and a subcutaneous lump on the buttock. Excisional biopsy of the lump revealed lobular panniculitis without evidence of vasculitis or granulomatous changes. She subsequently developed arthropathy, interstitial lung disease and mediastinal lymphadenopathy. Lymph node biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of sarcoidosis. The rarity of sarcoidosis in Chinese and the temporal relationship between the diagnosis of panniculitis and the subsequent features of sarcoidosis suggests that panniculitis is the cutaneous manifestation of the disease. Sarcoidosis should be considered as an unusual cause of panniculitis even in the absence of typical non-caseating granulomas.

Keywords: Baker's cyst, cutaneous, dermatological, pulmonary sarcoidosis, skin