

International Journal of Clinical & Medical Imaging



ISSN : IJCMI Volume 1 • Issue 3 • 1000159 March, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/ijcmi.1000159

Clinical Image

Title: Rash on Sun Exposed Areas of Skin

Subhankar Chakraborty

Department of Internal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA



Keywords: Phototoxicity; Ultraviolet; Doxycycline

A 50 year man presented with complaints of redness, swelling and blistering rash over the dorsum of the hands, dorsal forearms (Figure 1A and C), bridge of nose and malar area (Figure 1D) which erupted 10 days back, about half an hour after exposure to sunlight. Ventral forearm was not affected (Figure 1B). He had never had similar problems before. Further questioning revealed that he had been on doxycycline for the last 3 months as suppressive therapy for osteomyelitis. Based on history of exposure to doxycycline and distribution of the rash (confined to sun exposed areas), a diagnosis of phototoxicity was made. Phototoxicity is a non-immunological reaction to sunlight in response to agents that are activated by ultraviolet (particularly UVA) light to generate reactive oxygen species which damage cell membranes. Systemic drugs that cause phototoxicity include tetracyclines (doxycycline), thiazides, phenothiazines (chlorpromazine), antifungals (voriconazole and griseofulvin), fluoroquinolones, retinoids, nalidixic acid and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (piroxicam and ketoprofen). Clinically, photototoxic reaction appears like exaggerated sunburn. It usually evolves within minutes to hours after exposure to sunlight, and in severe cases develops into vesicles and bullae. Our patient was treated by stopping doxycycline, and prescribed a combination of H1 (loratidine) and H2 receptor blockers (ranitidine), topical emollient and oral prednisone (20 mg daily for 5 days) and advised to avoid sun exposure. On follow-up his symptoms had improved.

*Corresponding author: Subhankar Chakraborty, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-2055, USA, Tel: +19788105992; E-Mail: schakra@unmc.edu **Copyright:** © 2014 Chakraborty S. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.