Letters to the Editor

Sweet Syndrome as a Possible Initial Manifestation of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection

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To the Editor:

Acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis was initially described by Sweet in 1964 as reactive dermatoses in middle-aged women following upper respiratory tract infections. These dermatoses had 4 characteristic clinical elements: fever, leukocytosis; eruption of erythematous and edematous plaques on the extremities, face, and neck; and a dense predominantly neutrophilic inflammatory infiltrate in the dermis, with no sign of vasculitis. The reactive nature of this condition is noted for its frequent association with infectious, inflammatory, or neoplastic processes. We present a new case of Sweet syndrome as the initial manifestation of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

A 35-year-old male, with no relevant medical history, was examined for fluid-filled erythematous and edematous lesions that had presented 4 days earlier. These were painful to pressure and were found on the upper lip (Figure 1), outer ears, scalp, knees and elbows (Figure 2), and finger pads, with no associated fever or malaise. The patient had no previous catarrhal symptoms, and had taken no medication in the previous month. Test results showed a white

Figure 1. Violaceous erythematous and edematous plaques painful to pressure, on the upper lip.

Figure 2. Violaceous erythematous and edematous plaque on the left elbow.
Benign Lymphangiomatous Papules and Plaques After Radiotherapy

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To the Editor:

Lymphangiomas are tumors that normally appear at birth. They are formed from dilated lymph vessels that may extend to the subcutaneous cellular tissue. A number of causes of acquired lymphangiomas such as radiotherapy and surgery have been reported. The area irradiated during radiotherapy may develop benign vascular proliferations such as acquired progressive lymphangioma or malignant processes such as high-grade angiosarcoma, even when low doses of radiation are used. 1,2

Within what are considered acquired...