Chemotherapy-Related Reticulate Hyperpigmentation: A Case Series and Review of the Literature.


ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Inherited or acquired reticulate hyperpigmentation represents a heterogeneous group of infrequent dermatological conditions. The development of reticulate hyperpigmentation has so far been rarely reported to be associated with chemotherapeutic agents, including fluorouracil, bleomycin or a combination of cytarabine and idarubicin. CASE REPORTS: We describe 5 cases of chemotherapy-related reticulate hyperpigmentation in patients treated with different chemotherapeutic regimens, in particular paclitaxel or cytarabine. The lesions were similar in all cases, with reticulate and/or linear hyperpigmented streaks, which were mainly located to the back and buttocks. Histology showed increased melanogenesis, which suggests a direct toxic effect of chemotherapy on melanocytes. Reflectance confocal microscopy was performed in 2 patients showing a similar pattern, with an increased amount of melanin in basal keratinocytes. These features have been compared with the available data through a literature review. CONCLUSION: Reticulate hyperpigmentation is an underestimated but characteristic complication of chemotherapy. Neither specific management nor discontinuation of the chemotherapeutic regimen is required. © 2015 S. Karger AG, Basel. PMID:26422424