

Case ^{NEW!} of the month

Scratching the surface of skin lesions

By Catherine Maari, MD, FRCPC; and Zenovia Hatziris

A 67-year-old retired man presents to your clinic with a three-week history of an eruption on his right arm. It started as a slightly painful nodule on his right index finger that subsequently ulcerated and crusted. Within one week of the primary lesion, he noted the onset of new nodules along the affected arm. The nodules started distally and moved proximally.

The patient lives on a farm and enjoys gardening. He reports having multiple small scratches on his hands frequently, secondary to his physical labor on the farm. He denies having any arthritis, myositis, dyspnea, cough or abdominal pain. The patient says he has not travelled recently, had contact with sick people or been bitten by any insects or animals.

His review of systems is negative. His past medical history is significant for hypercholesterolemia and high blood pressure. His medications are atorvastatin and

hydrochlorothiazide.

The patient's general physical exam is unremarkable. He is in no acute distress, without lymphadenopathy or hepatosplenomegaly.

The cutaneous exam, reveals five subcutaneous nodules along the lymphatic drainage distribution of his right arm. The lesions are subcutaneous, erythematous and firm,



Subcutaneous nodules along the lymphatic drainage.

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measuring up to 2 cm. Some nodules are ulcerated with an overlying crust. The lesions are non-suppurative and do not express material with surrounding pressure.

What's the diagnosis? See page 43 for a case discussion.

Dr. Maari is a dermatologist, formerly from Université de Montréal, and currently working at the Children's Hospital, San Diego, California, U.S.

Ms. Hatziris is a medical student at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, California, U.S.

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