



Photo Diagnosis

Illustrated quizzes on problems seen in everyday practice

Case 1



Asymptomatic Pigmentation

A 14-year-old male presents with an asymptomatic pigmented nevus on his dorsal hand, present since birth and slowly enlarging.

Questions

1. What is your diagnosis?
2. When does the lesion present?
3. How would you manage this patient?

Answers

1. Nevus spilus or speckled lentiginous nevus. There is a variable number of black or brown macules and papules within a tan-brown hyperpigmentation, typically several centimeters in size.
2. Lesions are typically present at birth, or within the first year of life. There may be a slow increase in the size of the lesion and change in colour over time.
3. Education as to the benign nature is important, as is emphasizing the importance of following for any change as there can be malignant transformation as with any nevus. Surgical excision should be performed for cosmesis or if there is change in the lesion.

Provided by: Dr. Benjamin Barankin

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Case 2



Painful Lesion

A 53-year-old woman presents with a painful lesion on her hand. She has had similar lesions in the past. There is no history of trauma.

Questions

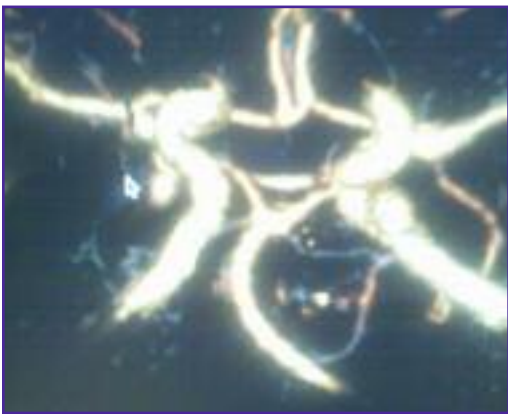
1. What is the diagnosis?
2. What is the significance?
3. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. Sweet's syndrome.
2. Sweet's syndrome is a reactive phenomenon and may be a marker of systemic disease. Careful systemic evaluation is indicated, especially when cutaneous lesions are severe. Approximately 20% of cases are associated with malignancy. An underlying condition is found in up to 50% of cases.
3. Systemic corticosteroids (prednisone 0.5 mg/kg to 1.5 mg/kg of body weight per day) produce rapid improvement. The skin lesions clear within three to nine days. Corticosteroids are then tapered to zero. Recurrences are common. Topical and/or intralesional corticosteroids may also be effective.

Provided by: Dr. Scott Robert Perry

Case 3



Dilated Pupil and Blurred Vision

A 52-year-old lady was referred for a right dilated pupil. She had a headache which started a week ago. For the past few days, her right vision has been blurred and her diffuse headache became constant. She is mildly distressed but well oriented. Right-sided ptosis is noted. Right pupil was 4 mm to 5 mm dilated and non reactive to light. Normal reflexes and the rest of the neurological examination was unremarkable.

Questions

1. What is your diagnosis?
2. Is this an emergency?

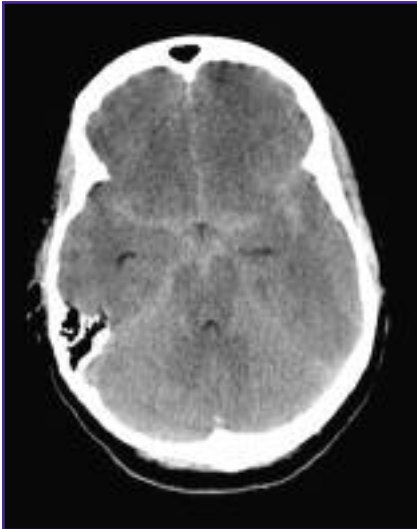
Answers

1. A cranial angiogram confirmed right posterior communicating artery aneurysm.
2. The dilated, non-reactive pupil and ipsilateral ptosis is a neurosurgical emergency and this patient should have been referred to the ED for an urgent neurological or neurosurgical assessment.

A stat neurosurgical consultation was obtained and the patient was transferred to the neurosurgical service.

Provided by: Dr. Mohammad S. Ijaz

Case 4



Severe Headache

A 42-year-old male presents with sudden onset of acute severe headache and decline in level of consciousness. On examination he has neck stiffness. A CT scan of the brain was performed.

Questions

1. What is seen in this CT scan?
2. What is your diagnosis?
3. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. This CT scan shows acute hyperdensity in basal cistern and major fissures of the brain.
2. Acute subarachnoid hemorrhage.
3. Neurosurgical consultation, magnetic resonance angiography/CT angiogram and clipping/endovascular coiling of aneurysm.

Provided by: Dr. Abdul Qayyum Rana; Dr. Faisal R. Khan; and Dr. Waheed Khan

Case 5




Large Lump

A 43-year-old female was noted to have a huge lump in her lower part of the left side of her back. The lump so far is asymptomatic and lobulated.

Questions

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. What is the significance?
3. What is the treatment?

Answers

1. Lipoma.
2. Lipomas are the most common soft-tissue benign tumours. These slow-growing, benign, fatty tumours form soft, lobulated masses enclosed by a thin, fibrous capsule. Although it has been hypothesized that lipomas may rarely undergo sarcomatous change, this event has never been convincingly documented. They are often multiple and are mostly found on the trunk, neck and upper extremities. Lipomas occur in 1% of the population. Most of these are small, subcutaneous tumours. Occasionally they are painful.
3. If symptomatic, surgical excision should be performed. Otherwise, it could be done for cosmetic reasons. 

Provided by: Dr. Jerzy Pawlak