

10th Asia-Pacific Dermatology Conference

November 28-29, 2016 Melbourne, Australia

De novo histoid leprosy manifesting over a tattoo site

Friend Philemon M Liwanag and Lacuesta Maricarr Pamela L

Southern Philippines Medical Center, Philippines

Histoid leprosy is recognized as a rare form of leprosy with a heavy bacillary index. De novo is a peculiar type of histoid leprosy characterized as an initial clinical presentation without previous treatment with multidrug therapy. Further, published reports have shown the possible participation of skin other than respiratory droplets in leprosy transmission. We report a case of de novo histoid leprosy in a 30 year old man, who initially presented with a hyperpigmented papule which progressed into a shiny nodule over a tattoo site on his left upper arm. The lesions became generalized with symmetrical distribution. Histopathological studies revealed findings consistent with the diagnosis. Histoid leprosy was first described in the Philippines, which exemplifies the challenge to leprosy eradication. Thus, this finding that tattooing as likely cause of inoculation of histoid leprosy in this post-elimination era generates important consideration.

Biography

Friend Philemon M Liwanag has completed his Doctor of Medicine degree at the Manila Central University-FDT Medical Foundation. He is a currently a second year Dermatology Resident at the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City, Philippines.

prendoks@gmail.com

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