When Dermatology Turns Deadly

Match the diagnosis to the photo by letter

a. Meningococcemia
b. Stevens-Johnson syndrome
c. Necrotizing fasciitis
d. Rocky Mountain spotted fever

1. Eight days after a trip-and-fall accident, a 35-year-old afebrile woman presents with increasing pain, loss of appetite, and substantial fracture blisters over the dorsal area of the foot that extend to the lateral leg. Mild erythema extends to the midcalf, and distal leg, ankle, and foot swelling is apparent. Further examination reveals malodorous draining abscesses consistent with deeper infection at the medial and dorsolateral foot, lateral ankle, and leg.

2. A 46-year-old man presents with a blistering eruption of four days’ duration. Two weeks ago, he started doxycycline hyclate (100 mg bid) for a dental infection. He is not taking any other medications and has not taken doxycycline in the past. Four days ago, a pruritic tender eruption developed on his central chest and back, quickly progressing to affect most of his body, including his palms, soles, and oral mucosa. He describes his discomfort as “lying in the sand with a bad sunburn.”

3. A 6-year-old child presents with a rash that was preceded by fever, myalgias, and severe headache five days ago. Initially appearing as itchy, red macules, the petechial rash first appeared on the hands, wrists, feet, and ankles, then moved centrally, and ultimately spread to the face. History includes a family camping trip in a national forest.

4. A 4-month-old infant is brought to the emergency department with fever and purpura of several hours’ duration. The rash appeared as petechiae on the trunk and extremities, progressing to larger purple lesions. The parents report that the infant experienced malaise, vomiting and diarrhea, and cold hands and feet.

For answers, see next issue; for discussion, go to www.mdedge.com/clinicianreviews/picture


Answers to June “Picture This” (Clinician Reviews. 2018;27[6]:e10): 1b, 2d, 3c, 4a.