Erythropoietic Protoporphyria Looked Autoimmune at First

BY DOUG BRUNK
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CORONADO, Calif. — It is a wise rheumatologist who knows when to refer a child to a dermatologist, judging from cases reported at the annual meeting of the Pacific Dermatologic Association. Dr. Anna L. Bruckner discussed two such cases.

The first was that of a 9-year-old girl who was referred by a wise rheumatologist who knew when to refer a child to a dermatologist, judging from cases reported at the annual meeting of the Pacific Dermatologic Association. Dr. Anna L. Bruckner discussed two such cases.

The girl was healthy and had a 4-month history of intermittent redness and swelling of the hands that worsened after prolonged outdoor activities. She had normal height and weight, and a physical examination was normal. A skin biopsy showed clefts of hyaline material around the superficial blood vessels in the upper dermis, suggesting a diagnosis of erythropoietic protoporphyrinia (EPP).

Bruckner confirmed the diagnosis in a dermatology conference, and the patient was referred to a dermatologist. The dermatologist diagnosed EPP and referred the patient to Dr. Bruckner, who is director of pediatric dermatology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

The patient had no history of photosensitivity, and her hair and skin were normal. However, she had occasional episodes of photosensitivity, and her hair was yellowish and often fell out.

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