Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection Presenting with Chronic Actinic Dermatitis: A Case Report
S N Wong, MBBS (Melb), MRCP (UK), M Med (Int Med), S W Khoo, FAMS, MBBS, MRCP (UK)

Abstract

Introduction: We describe a case illustrating a rare but increasingly recognised association of chronic actinic dermatitis (CAD) with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Clinical Picture: A 40-year-old Chinese man of skin type III presented with a photodistributed rash of 3 years’ duration. Histology, phototesting and subsequent clinical course were consistent with CAD. HIV serology was positive. CD4 count was 26 cells/µL, with absence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-defining illnesses. Treatment: Topical steroids, sun-protection and trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole prophylaxis were prescribed. Outcome: Improvement was documented over the arms, but the facial plaques persisted. Conclusion: CAD may be a presenting feature of advanced HIV infection.

Key words: AIDS, Photodistribution, Photosensitivity

* Registrar
** Consultant Dermatologist
National Skin Centre
Address for Reprints: Dr Su-Ni Wong, National Skin Centre, 1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205.
E-mail: s_nwong@nsc.gov.sg