



Image in medicine

Maculopapular rash as initial manifestation of SRAS-coronavirus-2 infection[☆]



Rash maculopapuloso como manifestación inicial de infección por SARS-coronavirus-2

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Figure 1.

A 31-year-old woman with no personal history of interest who came to the emergency department due to a 5-day history of non-evanescent skin lesions on the trunk and upper limbs that were not pruritic or painful. During history-taking, she also reported dry cough and dysthermia, denying prior medication.

On physical examination, discreetly palpable, plaque-confluent, erythematous maculopapular lesions were observed, with no epidermal component, distributed in the abdomen, neckline and inner side of the arms (Fig. 1).

Suspecting SARS-coronavirus-2 (COVID-19) infection, a chest X-ray was requested, showing parenchymal consolidation in the right middle lobe. The blood test highlighted the elevation of acute phase reactants. The nasopharyngeal swab PCR was positive for SARS-coronavirus-2.

The patient was admitted with a diagnosis of pneumonia and dermatosis in the context of COVID-19, and the lesions resolved in parallel with the remission of the respiratory symptoms after one week.

Even though it is a respiratory pathogen, dermatological symptoms, such as hives or rashes, have been described in relation to COVID-19. Knowledge of these skin lesions can be useful for diagnosis, occasionally being, as in this case, one of the main symptoms of the initial clinical presentation.

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