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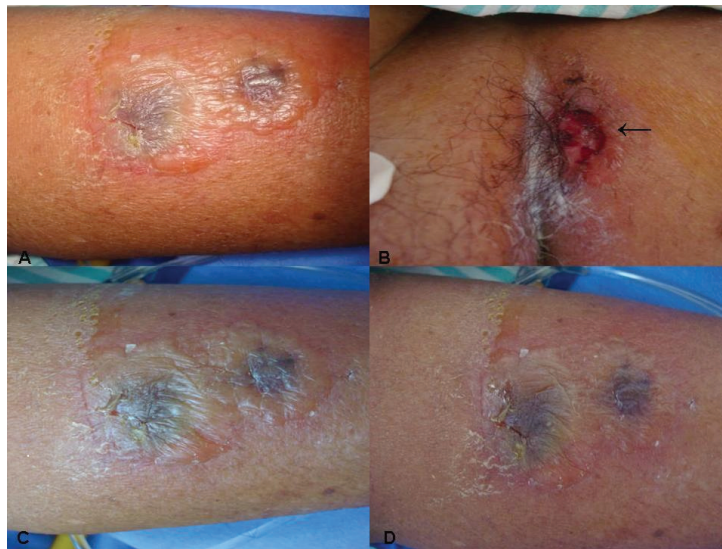


Figure 1. A) Serous vesicle blisters on an erythematous plaque which showed acute onset at the site of venipuncture in a patient receiving hydroxyurea to control chronic myeloid leukemia; B) Shallow vulvar ulceration (arrow) coexistent with left forearm skin lesions; C and D) Healing of skin changes two and three days after the use of corticosteroids.

In March 2009, a 79-year-old female presented with refractory anemia and excess blasts (MDS AREB-2) and was treated with cyclosporine (50 mg BID) at another hospital. In May, she was admitted to our Internal Medicine Ward for clinical and hematology surveillance. New bone marrow studies were performed, which revealed about 32% myeloblasts that contained Auer bodies, more than 20% basophils and negative for BCR-ABL mutation. Cyclosporine was withdrawn. She received hydroxyurea 500mg/day, which was increased up to 1,500 mg daily. Ten days later, the patient exhibited a high fever, along with erythema and painful vesicle-bullous lesions that appeared at the venipuncture sites in her left forearm (Figure 1A), in addition to vulvar ulcer with clean base (Figure 1B). Lesions were not found in

the neck, trunk, eyes, mouth, nose, or anal region. Histopathology study was performed in biopsy samples from the skin lesions. Of note, microorganisms were not detected in tissue samples, blood, and urine cultures. Additionally, serologic tests for infectious agents were negative. Cutaneous changes showed rapid improvement (Figures 1C and 1D) after the use of prednisone 60 mg/day. Splenomegaly was not conspicuous and the lung field examination was unremarkable. However, despite nutritional, clinical, and intensive care support, the patient's course was downhill. Blood counts showed: leukocytes $28.7 \times 10^9/L$, 39% blasts, 2% myelocytes, 3% metamyelocytes, 18% bands, 22% segmented neutrophils, 3% basophils, 8% lymphocytes, erythrocytes $2.68 \times 10^{12}/L$, hemoglobin 8.3 g/dL, hematocrit 25.1%, MVC 94 fL, MCHC 33 g/dL, platelets $33.0 \times 10^9/L$, and ESR 38 mm/hour. Serum determinations showed: urea 117.8 mg/dL, creatinine 2.2 mg/dL, folic acid 6.99 nmol/L, vitamin B12 8, 440 pg/mL, beta-2 microglobulin 184.5 mg/L, and CRP 19.5 mg/dL. Death occurred on June 3rd, following acute atrial fibrillation and irreversible circulatory shock.

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