

Clinical Image

Acute Generalized Exanthematous Pustulosis (AGEP)

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A 56-year-old woman presented in reduced general condition with fever and an acute pustular rash. Previously she had received therapy with amoxicillin because of a dental infection.

A few days after start of the antibiotic therapy, pustules appeared on the legs and subsequently spread over the whole body. Laboratory tests showed elevated C-reactive protein of 169 (<5 mg/l) and leukocytosis of 27 (<10/nl) with neutrophilia and eosinophilia. Histology revealed exocytosis with subcorneal accumulation of neutrophils.

In summary of clinical, laboratory and histological findings, the diagnosis of Acute Generalized Exanthematous Pustulosis (AGEP) was made. Therapy with 60 mg of prednisolone was initiated over four days.

AGEP is a rare, but severe cutaneous drug reaction with an incidence of 1-5 cases per million per year. Most common causes are antibiotics or other drugs with symptoms occurring within 24 to 48 hours after intake, but also bacterial or viral infections may be triggers.



Figure 1: Physical examination revealed disseminated, extensive erythema with multiple non-follicular pustules. There was no involvement of the oral and genital mucous membranes.

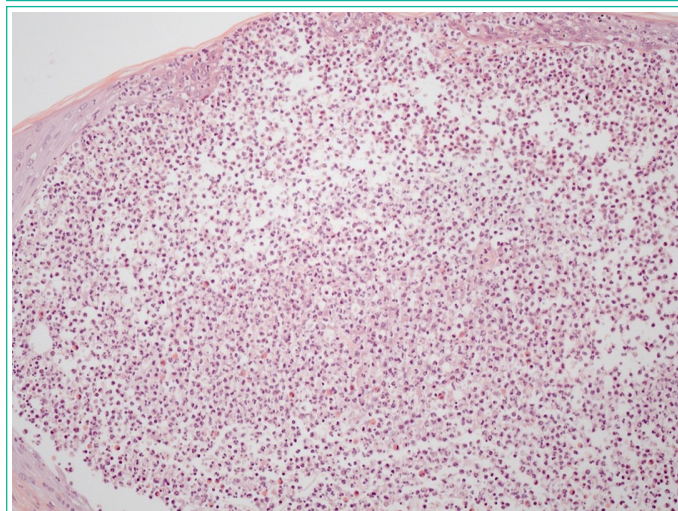


Figure 2: Histology showed exocytosis of neutrophils with subcorneal formation of pustules.