

## Clinical Case

# A rare case of postpartum pemphigoid gestationis

Running title: Bullous dermatoses in pregnancy

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### Case Study

A 34-year-old woman presented with multiple fluid-filled lesions on the body of 20 days duration. Within hours after her second delivery, an itchy rash appeared in the inguinal folds. On the following day, the rash had spread over the abdomen and also the arms, and the patient noticed blisters over the identical sites (Fig.1).



**Fig. 1** Blisters over the patient's back.

Physical examination revealed bullae in an annular configuration on an erythematous base and urticarial plaques involving her abdomen, back, and forearms (Fig.2).



**Fig. 2** Bullae in an annular configuration on an erythematous base

Histological examinations of biopsy specimens and direct immunofluorescence of perilesional skin confirmed the diagnosis of pemphigoid gestationis. Punch biopsy results showed subepidermal blistering dermatosis with

perivascular infiltrates of eosinophils and lymphocytes. Direct immunofluorescence was negative for IgG, IgM, and IgA, but demonstrated linear deposits of complement component C3 along the dermo-epidermal junction. The patient was started a 10-day prednisone taper starting at 60 mg daily for 7 days and decreasing 10 mg daily every 5 days, without significant improvement of the lesion. In addition to cortisone, the patient was treated with tetracycline antibiotics. Due to the non-response to cortisone, we decided to add cyclosporine 2.5 mg/kg (150-200mg) daily to the patient's treatment. The patient responded well within 2 weeks of starting cyclosporine and her lesions regressed completely.

Pemphigoid gestationis is pregnancy relative autoimmune vesiculobullous skin disease belonging to the group of blistering diseases. Although it's a rare disease, it

occurs in just 1 in 50 000 pregnancies, the clinician needs to suspect and diagnose the disease when a pregnant or postpartum woman has itching and blisters.

#### AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

All authors participated in the writing of the manuscript. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

The patient provided a written consent for permission of the photos to be published.