

Clinical image

Subacute cutaneous lesions in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus

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This is the case of a 55-year-old woman with a known history of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), currently undergoing treatment with azathioprine and hydroxychloroquine. She presented to our department with widespread cutaneous lesions, especially in sun exposed areas. The lesions were non-scarring, non-indurated and initially presenting as erythematous papules, macules or small plaques with a slight scale, they subsequently coalesced into annular formations. Taking into consideration the patient's established history of SLE, these

cutaneous manifestations were classified as subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE). In contrast to the lesions seen in discoid lupus erythematosus, skin lesions of SCLE generally resolve without scarring. They also may be associated with serological abnormalities, the most common of which is positivity for anti-Ro (SSA) antibodies, noted in the majority of the affected individuals. Our patient initiated a daily dose of 24 mg of methylprednisolone, following intravenous administration of belimumab, which yielded a significant therapeutic response.