

Answer: Acrokeratosis paraneoplastica

MCQ Explanation:

Acrokeratosis paraneoplastica (Bazex syndrome) is a paraneoplastic syndrome frequently associated with squamous-cell carcinomas of the upper aerodigestive tract.¹ It is characterized by desquamative erythematous lesions with bluish or violet discoloration, onychodystrophy, or keratoderma.¹ Lesions are typically located on acral regions such as the fingers (61%), toes (39%), ears (79%), and nose (63%).¹ The differential diagnosis includes eczema, frostbite, and psoriasis.² Of note, cutaneous lesions usually precede the symptoms of an underlying neoplasm by several months, and the lesions improve in 91% of cases after primary tumor treatment.² The skin findings of acrokeratosis paraneoplastica are resistant to conventional treatments including steroids,¹ a characteristic that can indicate to primary care physicians that further investigation is needed.²

In our case, the diagnosis of Bazex syndrome was made based on the typical cutaneous findings and microscopic examination of fine-needle aspiration of the mass showing features of poorly differentiated squamous-cell carcinoma (tumor stage 4a, lymph-node stage 2c, no distant metastasis). Radiation therapy for 3 weeks cleared the skin condition associated with tumor regression.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

References

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