

A Rare Case of Young Patient With Keloid After Topical Treatment with Potassium Hydroxide 5% of Molluscum Contagiosum

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Case Presentation

Keloids are the consequence of uncontrolled production and deposition of collagen at the point of previous dermal injury. Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a benign viral infection characterized by small brownish, pearly, or flesh-colored papules with a central umbilication.

Here we present the case of a 15-year-old male patient with a dark phototype, a clinical history of MC in the inguinal, gluteal, and internal thigh areas, and keloids in the same areas.

The anamnesis revealed that he applied topical 5% potassium hydroxide (KOH) on his MC lesions, and, after a few weeks, he developed keloids in the areas treated.

We perform a video-dermoscopy scan, a punch biopsy of one keloid, and cryotherapy of remaining MC (Figure 1).

Teaching Point

It is well known that black-skinned people easily develop keloids; actually, there is another report about the abnormal cutaneous response in children following topical treatment of MC with KOH [1].

Pathogenesis of keloids includes the chronic inflammation of the injured reticular dermis; indeed since KOH determines a skin inflammatory process, it may have determined the genesis of keloids in our patient [2]. Furthermore, the response to inflammation could be amplified in a young patient with a more reactive immune system.

In conclusion, keloids as a possible side effect of KOH must be considered when it is prescribed to a young patient with a dark phototype.

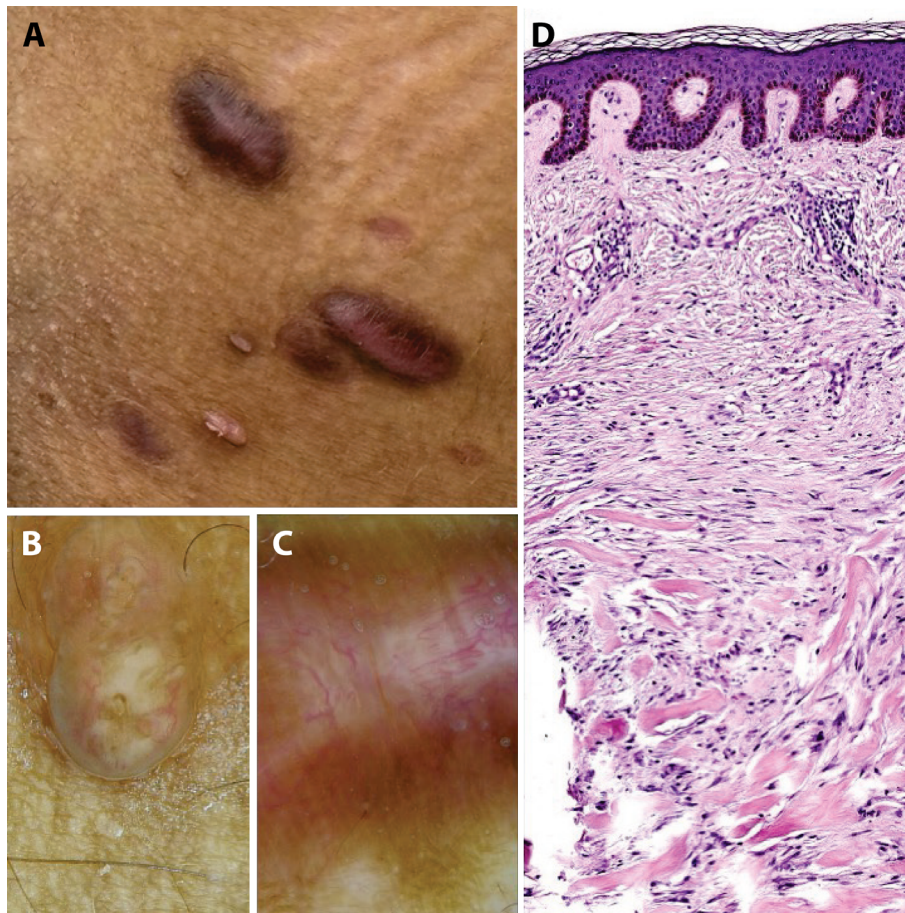


Figure 1. (A) Photo of Molluscum contagiosum and keloids; (B) Molluscum contagiosum at dermoscopy scan: a central umbilication, roundish white-to-yellow amorphous structures, accompanied with radial vascular patterns; (C) Keloid at dermoscopy scan: a pink-brownish structure, with arborizing and linear vessel; (D) Histology of a keloid: thickened collagen bundles in haphazard arrangement associate with plump fibrocytes.

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