

## Pitted Keratolysis Associated with Cutaneous Small-Vessel Vasculitis Resembling Deep Vein Thrombosis

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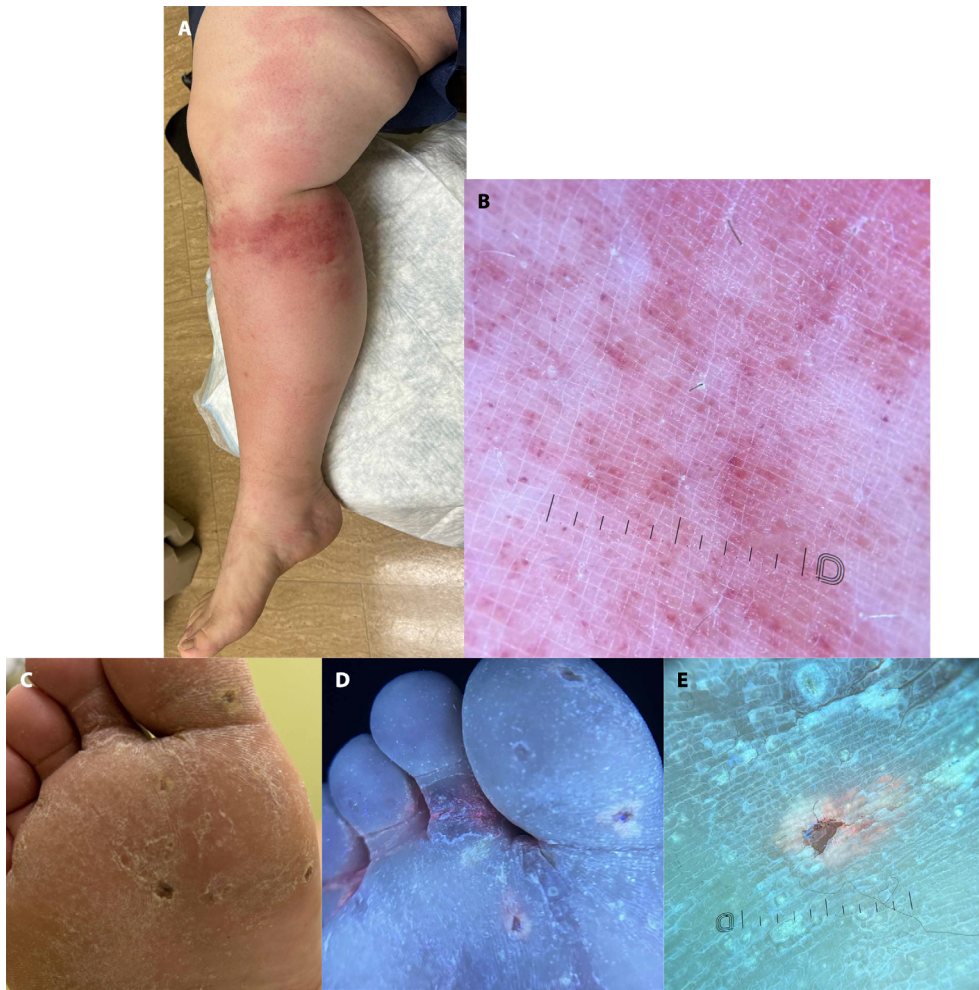
### Case Presentation

A 31-year-old man was referred for a recurrent leg “rash” causing pain and swelling. This “rash” recurred four times in the preceding two years. Physical exam revealed a limping patient with a band-like erythematous patch wrapping around the right lower leg, swelling, and pain in the right calf (Figure 1A). Dermoscopy showed red dots within a patchy orange-brown base (Figure 1B) that raised the suspicion of cutaneous small-vessel vasculitis (CSVV), which was later confirmed by biopsy. However, due to the resemblance to deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a stat D-dimer was obtained and was negative. The patient denied recent illness, but inspection of his feet showed small crater-like pits on the plantar surfaces and malodor (Figure 1C). Upon further questioning, the patient reported working in a wet environment and having had persistent feet malodor

for two years. Ultraviolet (UV) light revealed coral-red fluorescence between the toes grossly (Figure 1D) and in the pits dermoscopically (Figure 1E). A clinical diagnosis of pitted keratolysis (PK) was made. Azithromycin 500 mg daily for three days resulted in the resolution of both the feet and leg rashes.

### Teaching Point

Dermoscopy can improve the diagnostic accuracy of CSVV [1] and spare time in the investigation of associated conditions such as infections. UV light associated with dermoscopy techniques can assist in the diagnosis of PK [2]. Though previously not reported, our case suggests that untreated and persistent PK can be associated with CSVV, which can even resemble a DVT. When CSVV is suspected, it is important to examine the feet with UV light and dermoscopy.



**Figure 1.** (A). A band-like erythematous patch wrapping around the right lower leg associated with pain and swelling. (B) The dermoscopic view: red dots within a patchy orange-brown base. (C) Crater-like pits on the plantar surfaces of foot. (D) UV light revealed coral-red fluorescence between the toes. (E) UV light dermoscopy revealed coral-red fluorescence around a pit.

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