A Case Of De Novo Histoid Leprosy Mimicking Eruptive Xanthoma In A 40-year-old Filipino Male

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Histoid leprosy is a rare and uncommon form of multibacillary leprosy with distinct clinical and histopathologic feature. It is usually associated with sulfone resistance after dapsone monotherapy. Rarely, it can also occur de novo without any history of prior leprosy treatment. Here we present a 40-year-old Filipino male with this rare variant of lepromatous leprosy as the initial presentation of the disease.

The patient presented with multiple, skin-colored to slightly erythematosus, firm papules and nodules over the trunk and extremities. There was no sensory impairment to fine touch, pain and temperature. Nerve thickening was not noted. The initial impression was eruptive xanthoma versus Hansen’s Disease. Excisional biopsy and punch biopsy of perilesional skin were consistent with leprosy. Fite Faraco stain showed numerous bacilli arranged in clumps and slit skin smear of lesions revealed 5+ bacillary index which led to the diagnosis of histoid type of Hansen’s Disease. The patient was then started on multi-drug therapy for 24 months as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Keywords: Hansen’s Disease, Lepromatous Leprosy, De novo Histoid Leprosy