

Skin infections, Tropical dermatology, Skin diseases affecting Migrants and Refugees

# Erythema induratum of Bazin: Diagnostic challenge even in tuberculosis-endemic countries

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## BACKGROUND:

Tuberculosis is a disease that affects millions of patients each year. Despite its classic pulmonary involvement, extrapulmonary forms are becoming increasingly common. Described in 1861, erythema induratum of Bazin is a rare form of tuberculid characterized by hypersensitivity to Mycobacterium tuberculosis antigen.

## OBSERVATION:

A 57-year-old female patient, born in Bahia, Brazil, sought dermatological medical care due to inflammatory and painful nodules in the posterior region of the lower limbs and feet. She reported that she has had these symptoms for 5 years, and that these nodules often progress to suppuration. Underwent several inappropriate topical and systemic treatments for the lesions. Furthermore, she reported that she had already performed a biopsy of the lesions in another service, but that the diagnosis was not successful. She had a strongly positive PPD (20 mm), but denied a family history of tuberculosis. Skin biopsy of the left leg was performed for anatomopathological examination. The dermis showed a mild perivascular lymphohistiocytic infiltrate. The hypodermis presented fatty lobules with infiltrate composed of lymphocytes, histiocytes and clusters of epithelioid cells with multinucleated giant cells. Blood vessels with thickened walls and endothelial reactivity. The patient was referred to the public health system, where she was treated with isoniazid 300 mg for six months. Before the end of treatment, the inflammatory nodules regressed, with almost complete recovery.

## KEY MESSAGE:

Erythema induratum of Bazin is a rare clinical form of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection, which can make its diagnosis challenging. In this case, the patient had symptoms for 5 years before being correctly diagnosed. With globalization, the spread of tuberculosis can occur more easily outside endemic areas. It is important to emphasize the dermatologist's role in identifying and diagnosing rare skin diseases, even those associated with diseases that do not have a high prevalence rate in their countries.