

IMAGE IN DERMATOLOGY

[Translated article] Orf Virus Nodule

Nódulo de orf

P. López Sanz*, A. García Vázquez, J.L. Agudo Mena



Servicio de Dermatología, Hospital General Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, Spain

A 52-year-old healthy woman consulted with a 1-week history of a skin lesion on the ulnar border of her left hand. The lesion was rapidly growing and mildly pruritic. The patient had no fever, history of local trauma, or other associated symptoms. Notably, her occupational history included working as a butcher, in contact primarily with sheep. On examination, a well-demarcated 3 cm erythematous–edematous plaque measuring was noted, mildly infiltrated, with perilesional erythema and a centrally overlying pseudopustule (Fig. 1). Non-painful < 1 cm axillary lymphadenopathies were also seen. Skin biopsy revealed a pattern of superficial and deep perivascular dermatitis with abundant eosinophils, and the tissue culture ruled out bacterial, fungal, or mycobacterial infections. The lesion resolved after 3 weeks without the need for treatment or scarring.

The orf nodule is a zoonosis caused by a virus of the genus *Parapoxvirus*, primarily infecting sheep and goats. Most cases occur in high-risk professions in direct contact with infected animals. After an incubation period of 3–8 days, the lesion appears progressing through various stages—macule, papule, nodule, vesicle, and crust—self-resolving within a matter of 3–6 weeks. The characteristic lesion and the history of contact with sheep allowed for the diagnosis of orf nodule, as opposed to the nodule of milkers, whose clinical presentation is indistinguishable but occurs in individuals in contact with cattle.



Figure 1

Ethical considerations

Informed consent was obtained from the patient, who approved the use of clinical data, images, and any clinical material related to her condition for scientific and publication purposes.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

DOI of original article:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2023.09.034>

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: lopezsanzpablo@gmail.com (P. López Sanz).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2025.03.004>

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