

References

1. Friedman ES, Friedman PM, Cohen DE, Washenik K. Allergic contact dermatitis to topical minoxidil solution: etiology and treatment. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2002;46:309-12.
2. Dias M, Conchon I, Vale T. Allergic contact dermatitis from quinine. *Contact Dermatitis.* 1994;30:121-2.
3. Frosch PJ, Menné T, Lepoittevin JP. Historical aspects. *Contact Dermatitis.* 4th ed. Heidelberg: Springer; 2006. p.5.
4. Tapadinhas C, Dias M, Conchon I, Pereira F, Cardoso J. Contact dermatitis due to quinine-containing hair lotion. *Contact Dermatitis.* 1994;31:127.
5. Wahlberg JE, Boman A. Contact sensitivity to quinidine sulfate from occupational exposure. *Contact Dermatitis.* 1981;7:27-31.
6. Hickey JR, Dunnill GS, Sansom JE. Photoallergic reaction to systemic quinine sulphate. *Contact Dermatitis.* 2007;57:384-6.
7. Ljunggren B., Hindsén M., Isaksson M. Systemic quinine photosensitivity with photoepicutaneous cross-reactivity to quinidine. *Contact Dermatitis.* 1992;26:1-4.

P. Hernández-Bel,* J. de la Cuadra-Oyanguren,
L. Martínez, J. López, A. Agustí, and V. Alegre

Servicio de Dermatología, Consorcio Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, Valencia, Spain

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: pablohernandezbel@hotmail.com
(P. Hernández-Bel).

Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus and Vitiligo

Lupus eritematoso cutáneo y vitiligo

to the Editor:

Lupus erythematosus and vitiligo are diseases of autoimmune origin. Reports in the literature suggest patients are more likely to suffer more than 1 autoimmune disease (30% of patients with generalized vitiligo have another autoimmune disease).¹ However, there are few reports of cutaneous lupus erythematosus in association with vitiligo.

We describe a 42-year-old woman with no family history of autoimmune disease. In August 2008 she consulted for the appearance of erythematous papules on the arms, face, and upper trunk. The papules were slightly infiltrated, of variable size, and coalesced into larger plaques on hypopigmented skin; there was no desquamation (Figure 1). On suspicion of cutaneous lupus, a biopsy was performed, which showed vacuolar degeneration of the basal layer with a lymphocytic infiltrate in the dermis, dense perivascular lymphocytic cuffing, and focal deposits of mucin (Figure 2). Autoimmunity tests for antinuclear and anti-DNA antibodies were negative. Topical corticotherapy and sun protection measures were prescribed, and the patient improved.

The lupus lesions improved considerably within 3 months. However, the patient continued to present large hypopigmented plaques on the forearms, face, and upper trunk where the lupus lesions had been. Achromotrichia, not present at the first visit, was also observed in the eyebrows, scalp hair, and eyelashes (Figure 3). The lesions were suggestive of vitiligo, even though most were in areas that had previously presented lupus lesions. The differential diagnosis was with postinflammatory lesions secondary to lupus. The patient came to follow-up visits every 6 months; no new lupus lesions were observed, but the achromotrichia continued to spread. Our patient was

therefore diagnosed with subacute cutaneous lupus with no systemic involvement (in remission at the time of writing) and vitiligo.

Reports of the coexistence of 2 autoimmune pathologies such as lupus erythematosus and vitiligo are rare in the literature. The earliest articles usually mention the differential diagnosis between the residual hypopigmented lesions of cutaneous lupus and vitiligo.² In 1981, Forestier et al³ described 2 patients, 1 with discoid lupus who developed vitiligo-like lesions and 1 with vitiligo whose clinical course was complicated by the appearance of lesions of discoid lupus. Both patients presented elevated antinuclear antibodies, while all other autoantibodies were negative. Postinflammatory lesions were also considered in our patient, but the course of the lesions and, in particular, the achromotrichia supported the diagnosis of vitiligo. Other authors have subsequently reported further, isolated cases of patients with lupus who developed vitiligo over the course of their disease.^{2,4,5}

A genetic explanation for the association between lupus erythematosus and vitiligo has recently been attempted. In a study of 16 European families, Nath et al⁶ found that the *SLV1* gene on chromosome 17 may explain the relationship between systemic lupus erythematosus and vitiligo. Rahner et al⁷ related various *mutS* homolog 6 gene mutations (present in hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer) with the presence of both autoimmune processes. However, both authors base their findings on a small number of patients. More studies are needed in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and in patients with cutaneous lupus with no systemic involvement.

Based on the greater predisposition to the association of autoimmune conditions, isolated cases of patients with more than 1 autoimmune disease have been reported by several authors, such as Johnson et al,¹ who reported a case of vitiligo associated with type 1 diabetes mellitus and Callen,⁸ who described a patient with discoid lupus erythematosus and autoimmune thyroiditis with high



Figure 1 Image of the initial lesions on the arms, showing erythematous papules on hypopigmented skin.

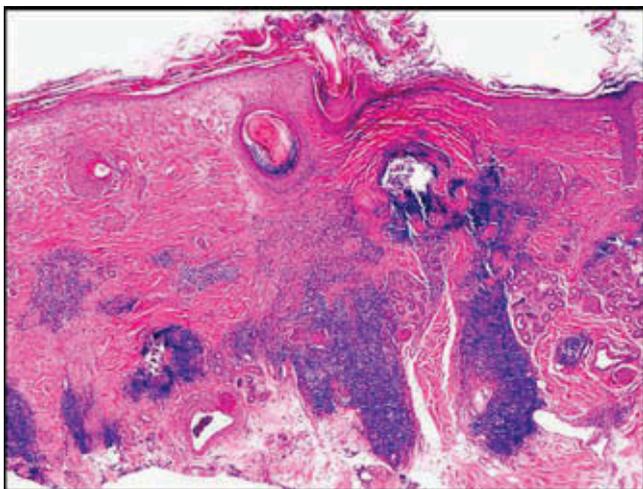


Figure 2 Histologic section showing a periadnexal lymphocytic infiltrate with interface dermatitis in the basal layer (hematoxylin-eosin, $\times 20$).

antimicrobial antibodies. Other cases reported were patients with vitiligo and cutaneous lupus who also presented other nonautoimmune conditions (dermatophyte infection⁹ and melanoma¹⁰).



Figure 3 Appearance of achromotrichia in the facial region 3 months after the initial visit.

We present a new patient with cutaneous lupus with a favorable course and who developed vitiligo-like lesions that led us to consider a differential diagnosis with lesions secondary to lupus; the clinical course of the lesions confirmed the diagnosis of vitiligo. Based on a review of the literature, we believe that the coexistence of these 2 autoimmune diseases is not as common as might be expected for these autoimmune processes. Recent data show an autoimmune genetic basis that might further our understanding of the coexistence of the 2 conditions.

References

1. Johnson H, Bossenbroek NM, Rosenman K, Meehan SA, Robles M, Pomeranz MK. Chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus in vitiligo. *Dermatol Online J*. 2008;15;14:10.
2. Chowdhury DS, Berjee AK. Development of discoid lupus erythematosus in vitiligo. *Bull Calcutta Sch Trop Med*. 1968;16:111-2.
3. Forestier JY, Ortonne JP, Thivolet J, Souteyrand P. Association of lupus erythematosus and vitiligo. *Ann Dermatol Venereol*. 1981;108:33-8.
4. Passarini B, Molinari M, Varotti C. Appearance of vitiligo in patients with chronic discoid erythematosus. *G Ital Dermatol Venereol*. 1985;120:425-7.
5. Khare AK, Singh G, Pandey SS. Vitiligo and disseminated discoid lupus erythematosus. *Indian J Dermatol*. 1988;33:37-9.
6. Nath SK, Kelly JA, Namjou B, Lam T, Bruner GR, Scofield RH, et al. Evidence for a susceptibility gene, SLEV1, on chromosome 17p13 in families with vitiligo-related systemic lupus erythematosus. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2001;69:1401-6.
7. Rahner N, Höfle G, Höfgenauer C, Lackner C, Steinke V, Sengteller M, et al. Compound heterozygosity for two MSH6 mutations in a patient with early onset colorectal cancer, vitiligo and systemic lupus erythematosus. *Am J Med Genet A*. 2008;146:1314-9.

8. Callen JP. Discoid lupus erythematosus in a patient with vitiligo and autoimmune thyroiditis. *Int J Dermatol.* 1984;23:203-4.
9. Khosravi AR, Mansouri P, Moazzeni M. Case report: chronic dermatophyte infection in a patient with vitiligo and discoid lupus erythematosus. *Mycoses.* 2000;43:317-9.
10. Gul U, Kilic A, Tulunay O, Kaygusuz G. Vitiligo associated with malignant melanoma and lupus erythematosus. *J Dermatol.* 2007;34:142-5.

V. Monsálvez,* I. Garía-Cano, L. Fuertes, R. Llamas, and F. Vanaclocha

Servicio de Dermatología, Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: monsalvezhonrubia@hotmail.com (V. Monsálvez).