

Transient Neonatal Pustular Melanosis: A Benign Mimicker of Infection

Melanose Pustulosa Transitória Neonatal: Um Mímico Benigno de Infecção

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Figure 1 – Multiple vesiculopustular skin lesions on the frontal, periorbital and nasal region, with 1 - 2 mm in diameter, on a discreet erythematous base (transient neonatal pustular melanosis)

A 16-day-old melanodermic newborn was evaluated in the emergency department due to the appearance, on day 12, of multiple 1 - 2 mm vesiculopustular lesions on the face, over a discreet erythematous base, without other inflammatory signs (Fig. 1). No systemic symptoms were reported; physical examination and laboratory tests, including infection markers, were normal. Pregnancy was uneventful, with normal laboratory tests and negative infectious serologies.

Transient neonatal pustular melanosis was diagnosed. Although classically present at birth, rarer later-onset cases are described¹⁻⁴; unnoticed subtle lesions in the first days may explain the apparent delay. Infectious causes such as bullous impetigo, folliculitis, Candida infection, and herpes simplex were considered, but excluded by lesion morphology, distribution, absence of systemic signs, and spontaneous evolution.

Transient neonatal pustular melanosis is more prevalent in dark-skinned infants, follows a benign course, and requires no treatment.^{5,6} At follow-up, gradual improvement was noted, with lesions evolving into hyperpigmented macules that may persist for weeks to months.^{1,4}

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed equally to this manuscript and approved the final version to be published.

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association updated in October 2024.

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DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

PARENTAL CONSENT

Obtained.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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