

A Case of Exuberant Elephantiasis *Nostras Verrucosa*

Um Caso Exuberante de Elefantíase *Nostra Verrucosa*



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Figure 1 – Elephantiasis *nostras verrucosa*: exuberant mossy plaques in both legs associated with chronic lymphedema (A); after treatment (B)

Elephantiasis *nostras verrucosa* (ENV) is a rare deforming disorder associated with chronic nonfilarial lymphedema.^{1,2} Without appropriate intervention, the slowly progressive cutaneous hypertrophy can culminate in a grotesque clinical picture.²

A 76-year-old woman, with previous medical history of heart failure, chronic venous insufficiency and secondary lymphedema associated with recurrent episodes of bilateral cellulitis, presented with nonpitting edema and impressive foul-smelling mossy plaques and cobblestone-like nodules in both legs for five years (Fig. 1A). A skin biopsy was

performed and revealed hyperkeratosis of the epidermis with underlying dilated lymphatics, compatible with ENV. Venous doppler studies revealed no evidence of deep-vein thrombosis. She started leg elevation and treatment with diuretics, compression, topical keratolytics and debridement, with great improvement (Fig. 1B).

Diagnosis of ENV can be made on clinical grounds alone, however physicians must investigate the underlying causes of lymphatic obstruction.^{1,3} Early recognition and treatment of this peculiar entity is the key to achieve a satisfactory result.^{2,3}

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