



An unusual reaction following allergic contact dermatitis to grevillea Robyn Gordon

A 55-year-old female presented with multiple hyperkeratotic verrucous nodules on her arms. Four weeks earlier she had been pruning grevillea Robyn Gordon and 48 hours later she described onset of weeping and blistering lesions over exposed sites with associated itch. She had self-treated the areas with aloe vera gel and bathed with pine tar solution. On examination one month after the initial onset of rash there were multiple erythematous, hyperkeratotic, verrucous nodules with visible excoriations on her bilateral upper arms and forearms. Punch biopsies were performed and histopathology revealed pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia (PEH), without granulomas. Special stains and culture were negative for bacteria, atypical mycobacteria and fungi. Subsequent patch testing revealed a positive reaction to grevillea Robyn Gordon. The patient was prescribed methylprednisolone aceponate ointment, however she did not use this because of concerns about topical corticosteroids. On review after two months there was improvement of all lesions; however there was evidence of residual linear hypertrophic scarring. This is the first case of PEH secondary to contact dermatitis in the literature. We postulate that this is an exaggerated response to severe allergic contact dermatitis, contributed to by the lack of topical treatment.