Reviewer's report

Title: Acral anetoderma: Case report and review of the literature.

Version: 1 Date: 20 April 2004

Reviewer: Thilo Gambichler

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes a 14-year-old boy with anetoderma affecting his hand, forearms, and calves. Although the distribution of lesions is non-typical for anetoderma, it has been reported previously (e.g., Karrer et al. Pediatr Dermatol 1996;13:382-5). The fact that no other sites were involved may be due to the relative short duration of disease. The title “acral anetoderma…” is not really justified as the patient had lesions on other sites as well.

Major compulsory revisions

The clinical representation of the patient is poor, since only 2 of the four provided photographs (Fig. 2 and 4) are of sufficient quality. However even these pictures are not convincingly diagnostic; an image with more details should be included where herniation and/or atrophy is recognizable. Further shortcomings of this case report and review of literature lack of information on some important differential diagnostic, histolopathologic, and pathogenetic features of anetoderma, e.g., not infrequently lymphohistiocytic infiltrates as well as giant cells with granuloma formation and elastophagocytosis are found in anetoderma; the latter is closely related to other elastolytic conditions such as mid-dermal elastolysis and cutis laxa; an imbalance of elastase/anti-elastase activity has been discussed frequently. The information collected in the discussion on page 5 could more clearly displayed in a table. The abstract (case presentation) contains too much details. All together the case reported in this paper provides fairly new information on the disease and the review section (discussion) needs considerable revision.

Minor revisions

Authors should consistently use British English, e.g., fibres instead of fibers, haematoxylin instead of hematoxylin. There are incorrect citations in the references (20, 21).

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None