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Copper Penny Bodies in Chromoblastomycosis

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A 63-year-old male presented with ulcerated lesions over the left leg of 3 years duration. Examination revealed verrucous plaques, erosions and ulcers covered with crusts with areas of scarring [Figure 1]. A 10% potassium hydroxide mount revealed small round light-brown coloured bodies lying singly and in clusters called copper penny bodies, medlar bodies and muriform or sclerotic cells diagnostic of chromoblastomycosis [Figure 2]. Chromoblastomycosis is a subcutaneous mycosis caused by a group of dematiaceous (pigment-producing) fungi.^[1] Medlar bodies are thick-walled cells (5–12 microns) with multiple internal transverse septa or chambers that resemble copper pennies.^[2]



Figure 1: Left leg showing verrucous plaques, erosions, ulcers covered with crusts with areas of scarring, and post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation.

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Figure 2: 10% potassium hydroxide (KOH) mount showing small round light brown coloured bodies lying singly and in groups called copper penny bodies, medlar bodies and muriform or sclerotic cells diagnostic of chromoblastomycosis (×100, KOH).

Ethical approval

The research was in compliance with Helsinki declaration 1964.

Declaration of patient consent

Patient's consent not required as patients identity is not disclosed or compromised.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

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