

6.

DERMATOLOGY

CHAPTER

SEVERE PERIORAL HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS INFECTION IN A COVID-19 PATIENT

Burçe Can KURU¹
Gizem GÖKÇEDAĞ²

BACKGROUND

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been spreading quickly throughout the world since its first appearance in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. World Health Organization declared the disease as a pandemic condition in March (1). Although respiratory problems such as shortness of breath, cough, feeling of fullness in the chest and are found in most of the patients, no pulmonary problems may be seen. (2). Many organ systems, including the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, renal, and neurologic systems may also be affected .

There are several types of skin findings related to COVID-19. Maculopapular rashes, urticaria, vesicles, petechiae, purpura, chilblains, livedo racemosa, and distal limb ischemia are COVID-19 associated dermatological manifestations. Majority of these dermatologic findings are self-limiting but they are important to provide help to increase both the patient's and the physicians' suspicion for COVID-19 (3). Here, a case of severe perioral herpes simplex virus infection in a COVID-19 patient is presented.

¹ Assoc.Prof.MD, Dermatologist, Bakirkoy Dr.Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital, Department of Dermatology Email: drburcecan@yahoo.com

² MD, Dermatologist, İstanbul Bakirkoy Dr.Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital, Department of Dermatology Email: gizemgokcedag@gmail.com

Hand-foot-mouth disease	Involving the tongue and buccal mucosa, often sparing the lips and gingiva in contrast to HSV, accompanied by vesicles that favor hands and feet
Oral candidiasis	Confluent, white patches or plaques most often localized to tongue, buccal mucosa and pharynx
Behçet	Recurrent oral aphthae, genital aphthae, uveitis, papulopustular or erythema nodosum-like skin lesions
Syphilis	Painless ulcer with indurated margins (oral chancre) in primary oral syphilis

CONCLUSION

We report a case of perioral herpes virus infection in a COVID-19 patient. Clinicians should be aware that orolabial vesicular lesions can be seen in various conditions and perioral HSV infection, especially when it is severe, could represent a cutaneous manifestation of COVID-19 disease.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- There are various type of dermatologic findings in COVID-19 infection. Perioral herpes simplex virus infection can be observed in COVID-19 patients.
- It is important to be aware of atypical, severe or extensive skin findings may be associated with COVID-19. Understanding these manifestations is essential to identify potential COVID-19 cases.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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ABBREVIATIONS

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease

SARS-CoV-2: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2

Herpes simplex virus-1: (HSV-1)

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