

Dermacase

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS CONDITION?

A 55-year-old man with a history of diabetes presents with chronic dermatitis in the third interspace of his right hand. Previous treatments have included emollients and topical steroids. Current medications include oral antihypertensives and sulfonylureas for glycemic control.

The most likely diagnosis is:

1. Erythrasma
2. Irritant contact dermatitis
3. Erosio interdigitalis blastomycetica
4. Psoriasis

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Answer to Dermacase

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3. Erosio interdigitalis blastomycetica

This form of candidiasis is most commonly seen in the third web space between the middle and ring fingers; sometimes the toes are affected. Clinically, a chronically denuded oval area is seen on the web space. Given time, it can spread to the fingers with a collar of surrounding epidermis.¹ The condition can be painful.

Chronic maceration is the primary factor that makes launderers, bartenders, and homemakers particularly susceptible. Rings can help retain moisture in the web space. Exposing the skin to chronic irritants and moisture leads to breakdown of the skin barrier with subsequent colonization and growth of *Candida*.

Erosio interdigitalis blastomycetica is one of the cutaneous manifestations of diabetes. The immunosuppressive effect of topical corticosteroids can aggravate the condition.

Diagnosis requires physicians to have an index of suspicion and, in some cases, fungal culture. Differential diagnosis includes irritant contact dermatitis, psoriasis, and erythrasma (caused by corynebacteria).

Treatment consists of correcting or eliminating factors that can aggravate the condition and use of topical antifungal preparations. ❖

Reference

1. Odom RB, James WD, Berger TD. *Andrews' diseases of the skin. Clinical dermatology*. 9th ed. Philadelphia, Pa: WB Saunders Company; 2000.