Rash in Meningococcemia

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A 19-year-old Japanese man, university student, visited our hospital with complaints of diarrhea in the morning, fever and headache in the afternoon on the day before the hospital visit, and skin eruption on the day of the hospital visit. The skin eruption with mild tenderness consisted of purple spots with irregular margins, and was distributed over the extremities including the fists and soles of the feet, as well as on the trunk. The picture shows purple spots on the anterior surfaces of the legs (Picture 1, 2). Gram-negative cocci were detected by blood culture, and were identified as Neisseria meningitidis. Although lumbar puncture was also performed, no obvious abnormalities were found. The disease was resolved in response to beta-lactam antimicrobials to which the bacteria were susceptible. It was not obvious whether or not he had a history of contact with carriers of Neisseria meningitidis. An examination showed CH50 to be undetectable and later a detailed examination revealed C7 deficiency (1, 2).

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References