[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

Essential Thrombocythemia Diagnosed from a Toe Ulcer

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Key words: essential thrombocythemia, toe necrosis, ulcer

(Intern Med 60: 2873-2874, 2021)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.6900-20)

Picture 1.

Picture 2.

A 62-year-old, diabetic, male patient presented with a painful, right fifth toe ulcer resulting from a shoe bite (Picture 1). The patient's diabetes had been relatively well-

controlled for over ten years with HbA1c ranging from 6-7%. Two years earlier he noticed another ulcer on his right second toe (Picture 2). A catheter examination at the time

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Received: December 8, 2020; Accepted: February 4, 2021; Advance Publication by J-STAGE: March 22, 2021

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showed no vascular occlusion or stenosis. The wound healed in four months with oral beraprost treatment. Beraprost was stopped one month before the current visit because no further ulceration developed. A blood analysis showed WBC 18,840/ μ L and platelets 101.5×10^4 / μ L. A JAK2-V617F mutation and bone marrow findings led to the diagnosis of essential thrombocythemia (ET). The affected toe was amputated due to the onset of gangrene. Bayaspirin and hydroxycarbamide were started, and the complete blood count improved (1). A toe ulcer or gangrene usually indicates a circulatory disorder such as arteriosclerosis obliterans, but ET should also be considered in the differential diagnosis as a possible underlying disease (2).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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