

Cutaneous Lichen Amyloidosis Associated with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2A: An Early Clinical Marker

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Fig. 1: A 51-year-old lady affected with multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A (MEN 2A) having bilateral adrenal pheochromocytoma (PCC), medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) and cutaneous lichen amyloidosis (CLA) on upper back at interscapular location more on right side

CASE SUMMARY

Pruritic, maculopapular skin lesion was noticed about 15 years before the patient noticed the classical triad of episodic headache, palpitation and increased sweating along with associated episodic hypertension. Small right thyroid lobe medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) was detected on evaluation. On genetic testing, she was detected to have c634 RET mutations. The patient underwent bilateral adrenalectomy and total thyroidectomy with central compartment lymph node dissection.

Multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) 2A-associated CLA has almost always been described in the setting of c634 RET mutations. It has been estimated that more than 30% of patients with MEN 2A who have a c634 RET mutation will develop cutaneous lichen amyloidosis (CLA) during their lifetime. CLA may be suggestive of an association with MEN 2A; lesions have always been reported to begin at the level of the first to the fourth thoracic vertebra, extending at least from the midline to the scapula, either unilaterally or bilaterally, but sparing the lower limbs (Fig. 1). Virtually all reported cases of MEN 2A-associated CLA have featured pruritus as the initial manifestation, usually appearing within the first 2 decades of life. Signs and symptoms of CLA may be extremely subtle, but in most reported cases, the onset of CLA manifestations actually predated the diagnosis of MEN 2A. Thus, the potential of the former as a diagnostic clue for the latter is highlighted.

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