

C13

Title: Rash from fire- a case series

Author(s): Anita Mason-Kennedy

Affiliation: St. Vincent Charity Medical Center

Erythema ab igne is an uncommon hyperpigmented dermatological disorder caused by repeated exposure to heat sources. Its reticulated configuration closely resembles that of livedo reticularis and as such it can be easily mistaken for the latter. Due to this, extensive workup usually ensues for a disorder that is benign and easily treated. We present three patients who presented with non pruritic, painless, hyperpigmented or erythematous, reticulated rash of weeks duration with a significant history of repeated heat exposure to the affected area. Patient 1: 49 year old Caucasian woman, with a reddish hyperpigmented rash to pretibial region of legs for three weeks – prior space heater use. Patient 2: 34 year old Caucasian woman whose hyperpigmented rash was located to the lower back– prior heating pad use; Patient 3: 28 year old African American woman, hyperpigmented rash to plantar aspect of feet– foot warmer use. Examination of each patient was significant for a hyper pigmented reticulated rash in the affected areas. The clinical diagnosis of Erythema Ab Igne was made without further clinical investigations. Avoidance of continuous direct heat exposure without pharmacological management was advised with complete resolution of rash after a few months of follow up.

Erythema Ab Igne is an uncommon disorder, its exact incidence is unknown. Its main mimic is livedo reticularis, which is not localized, frequently associated with systemic symptoms, and sometimes requires extensive evaluation. Erythema ab igne is diagnosed clinically and treated with removal of the offending agent.