

(Refer to page 181)

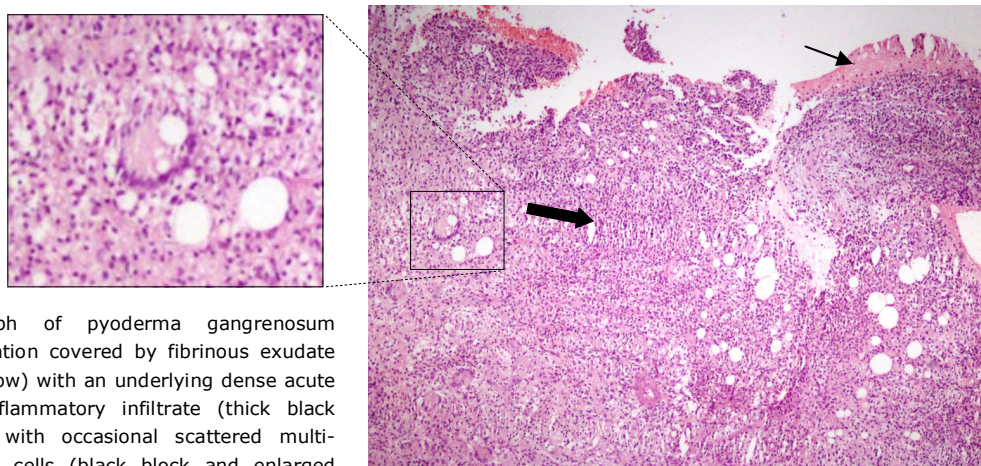
Answer: Pyoderma gangrenosum

Pyoderma gangrenosum is defined as an idiopathic ulcerative chronic inflammatory skin disease of unknown aetiology.¹ It occurs more commonly in adults and may be associated with systemic diseases such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, hepatitis, rheumatoid arthritis and malignancy.² Typically, the histopathology show ulcerations, fibrinous exudate and chronic inflammatory infiltrates (**Panel**).

There are four basic types of pyoderma gangrenosum, namely; ulcerative, pustular, vegetative and bullous types.^{2, 3} Lesions are most commonly found in the distal lower limbs, although they may also be found in the abdomen, thighs, buttocks and chest. Any parts of the body covered with skin can be affected.¹

Clinically, pyoderma gangrenosum presents as painful pustules typically in the lower limbs.² A haematoma-like lesion forms and later becomes a sterile abscess which spreads concentrically with undermining of the skin edges, a typical feature to become a large ulcer with bluish/purple borders. Pathergy is a feature of pyoderma gangrenosum with new lesion arising at sites of minor trauma.² Pathergy was present even in this case as there were multiple swellings of almost similar appearance with presence of identical fluid in all the swellings.

Oral steroids, local wound care and search for systemic disorder are the mainstay of management.² The overall prognosis of pyoderma gangrenosum is good in most cases. Patients with chronic or relapsing form of pyoderma gangrenosum require long-term therapy, and these are often associated with chronic diseases.¹



Photomicrograph of pyoderma gangrenosum showing ulceration covered by fibrinous exudate (thin black arrow) with an underlying dense acute on chronic inflammatory infiltrate (thick black arrow) along with occasional scattered multinucleate giant cells (black block and enlarged image). (H&E stain x200)

REFERENCES

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- 3: Tuzun Y, Marasoglu O. Pyoderma gangrenosum. *J Turk Acad Dermatol* 2007; 1:71301.