Janeway lesions
A classic to remember

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Figure 1. *Multiple 1 cm erythematous macules on the palmar thenar region of the right hand.*



Figure 2a. *Clustered 2x1 cm hemorrhagic papules on the lateral dorsum of the right foot.*



Figure 2b. *A confluence of 3x2 cm hemorrhagic papules with an area of excoriation on the distal plantar region of the right foot.*

Janeway lesions are painless hemorrhagic macules or papules that are a classic cutaneous manifestation of infective endocarditis, associated with vascular phenomena, and are reported in up to 5% of patients (1). We present the case of a 43-year-old woman with a history of a recent invasive dental procedure who presented to the emergency room with a complaint of prolonged fever, dyspnea, polyarthralgia, and painless purplish macular lesions on the thenar area of the right hand (Figure 1), as well as hemorrhagic plaques on two areas of the right foot: the dorsolateral region (Figure 2a) and the plantar region (Figure 2b).

A transthoracic echocardiogram showed a 4 mm vegetation on the mitral valve. Blood cultures revealed oxacillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus. During her hospitalization, the patient experienced a hemorrhagic cerebrovascular event with neurological deterioration and secondary cerebral edema, requiring a decompressive craniectomy. She subsequently developed complications, with a fatal outcome. The presence of cutaneous manifestations in infective endocarditis has been associated with a higher embolic burden and worse prognosis (2).

References

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