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Kaposi varicelliform eruption: Analyses of clinical characteristics and predisposing factors

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Kaposi varicelliform eruption (KVE) is a widespread herpes simplex virus infection, mostly occurring in patients with atopic dermatitis (AD). There have been quite a few data on clinical characteristics and predisposing factors of KVE in Korea. The objective was to characterize the clinical features and predisposing factors for KVE. A retrospective analysis of the patients diagnosed with KVE at the Pusan National University Hospitals (Busan and Yangsan) from 2004 through 2017 was conducted. A total of 73 episodes occurred in 58 patients and of these, 11 patients had recurrence (18.9%). The most common pre-existing disease was atopic dermatitis (72.4%), followed by contact dermatitis (8.6%), Darier's disease (6.8%) and seborrheic dermatitis (6.8%). The age ranged from 4 months to 68 and the mean age at the diagnosis of KVE was 27.3 years. Face (91.3%) was the most common involved site, followed by trunk (39.6%), upper extremities (31.0%) and lower extremities (13.7%). Majority of the patients with KVE (74.0%, n=43) experienced aggravation of the underlying disease within 3 months of onset of KVE, and this was more prominent especially in patients with recurrent events than those with single episode ($p=0.031$). This study contributes to our understanding of KVE and can help managing the patients with predisposing factors of KVE.

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