MAJOCCHI GRANULOMA

http://www.aocd.org

Majocchi granuloma, also called nodular granulomatous perifolliculitis or granuloma trichophyticum, is a rare hair follicle infection caused by dermatophyte fungal infection. Dermatophytes are fungi that invade keratinous tissue such as hair, skin and nails. The most common dermatophyte implicated in Majocchi granuloma is Trichophyton rubrum. However, other fungi such as T. mentagrophytes, T. violaceum, T. tonsurans, Microsporum canis, Epidermophyton floccosum and Aspergillus species can cause this disease. These fungi infect hair follicles and cause an inflammatory reaction.

It commonly presents as pink-red papules, pustules or even scaly plaques and nodules in a perifollicular region. Hair shafts can be easily removed from these infected sites and itching is very common. Majocchi granuloma can involve any hair-bearing surface but is most often found on the scalp, face, forearms and legs. These areas are susceptible to mechanical damage causing disruption to the skin barrier.

There are two subtypes of Majocchi granuloma, follicular and subcutaneous nodular. The follicular subtype can occur after trauma or topical corticosteroid use and can be found in healthy individuals. It most commonly presents in young women who frequently shave their legs. It is also more prevalent in tropical regions. The subcutaneous nodular subtype can occur in immunocompromised populations such as those on chemotherapy, high-dose corticosteroids or after organ transplantation and diseases such as lymphoma, leukemia, AIDS, and others.

The diagnosis of Majocchi granuloma can be made clinically with detailed history and physical examination. It is confirmed by taking a skin culture and biopsy.

Treatment involves oral antifungal medication such as terbinafine, fluconazole or itraconazole. Topical antifungal creams alone are not effective as the infection occurs in the deeper layers of the skin. It is important to reduce scratching or other trauma to the affected areas as it can exacerbate this infection.