Ecthyma gangrenosum and severe transitory neutropenia in an immunocompetent girl

Dear Editor,

Ecthyma gangrenosum (EG) is a rare cutaneous lesion, principally caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, through either primary infection or hematogenous spread. Other pathogenic agents responsible have also been described, such as *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Aspergillus* spp., among others. It generally develops in patients with sepsis or immunosuppression, in a context of hematological malignancies or immunosuppressive therapy. It presents with erythematous/violaceous or hemorrhagic lesions that evolve into a central necrotic ulcer with an erythematous halo, preferentially situated on the buttocks and legs. This report presents the case of a previously healthy baby girl with genital EG and the subsequent development of a severe transitory neutropenia.

A previously healthy 17-month-old girl presented with a hemorrhagic blister on the left side of her vulva. It had started seven days before, with perilesional erythema (Fig. 1) that progressively developed ulceration and edema. There was no fever or other systemic symptoms. She was treated with oral cefpodoxime and clindamycin. As there was no improvement after 72 hours, she was hospitalized and referred to dermatology. On physical examination, the patient was in good general condition with stable hemodynamics and no fever. She had a skin ulcer on the left labia majora with a maximum diameter of 1.7 cm and well-defined borders. There was fibrin at its base, much swelling, and perilesional induration, sensitive to the touch (Fig. 2). A hemogram was carried out which showed 5,840 leucocytes/mm³, an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) of 876 mm³, and C-reactive protein of 33 mg/dL. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests of the lesion for herpes simplex viruses 1 and 2, cytomegalovirus, varicella-zoster virus, and the Epstein-Barr virus were all negative. Blood, fun-

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**Figure 1** Hemorrhagic blister on vulva, two days of evolution.

**Figure 2** Skin ulcer in labia majora, seven days of evolution.
CASE LETTER

Santiago Garcia: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; drafting and editing of the manuscript; intellectual participation in the propaedeutic and/or therapeutic conduct of the studied cases; critical review of the literature; critical review of the manuscript.

Ligia Aranibar: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; drafting and editing of the manuscript; intellectual participation in the propaedeutic and/or therapeutic conduct of the studied cases; critical review of the manuscript.

Fernando Valenzuela: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; drafting and editing of the manuscript; intellectual participation in the propaedeutic and/or therapeutic conduct of the studied cases; critical review of the literature; critical review of the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest
None declared.

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