Porokeratosis is a heterogeneous group of skin disorders. Five clinical variants have been described: classic porokeratosis of Mibelli, disseminated superficial actinic porokeratosis, linear porokeratosis, punctate porokeratosis, and porokeratosis palmaris et plantaris disseminata. In 1995, Lucker et al. (1) described a subtype of porokeratosis: porokeratosis ptychotropica (PP). Clinically, this lesser-known entity most commonly affects body folds, especially the gluteal cleft, with or without involvement of the extremities. Male genitalia involvement is rare (2). We report here a special case of PP presenting with pruritic brownish verrucous plaques on the penis and scrotum.

CASE REPORT

A 48-year-old man presented with pruritic plaques on his penis and scrotum. The plaques had increased in size progressively over the last 20 years. Initial clinical presentation consisted of an itchy soybean-sized red scaly papule on the penis, but the lesions evolved to a verrucous scaly plaque, with a well-defined border accompanied by satellite lesion on the scrotum (Fig. 1). The patient reported having received topical treatment with 5-fluorouracil cream, with no resolution. He had no history of previous skin or general medical disorders. There was no family history of similar lesions. Routine haematological evaluations and serological tests for sexually transmitted diseases (HIV, hepatitis viruses, syphilis) were negative. A skin biopsy from the peripheral margin of the lesion on the penis revealed hyperkeratosis, acanthosis, and the presence of multiple cornoid lamellae. The dermis showed a mild lymphohistiocytic inflammatory infiltrate (Fig. 2). A diagnosis of porokeratosis ptychotropica was made. The patient was treated with pimecrolimus. After 3 months the lesions showed no improvement, but there was temporary relief of pruritus.
DISCUSSION

PP always presents as pruritic symmetrical red-brown verrucous papules and plaques with satellite areas of involvement. Histologically, PP is characterized by multiple cornoid lamellae, which may be related to the formation of hyperkeratotic plaques. In several cases, dermal amyloid deposits can be observed (3). Differential clinical diagnoses include lichen planus verrucosus, extramammary Paget’s disease, Bowen’s disease, and inflammatory linear verrucous epidermal nevus.

To date, the pathogenesis of PP remains unknown. Most cases occur sporadically and appear to be more frequent in male patients (4). Both genetic and environmental factors have been implicated, including ultraviolet light exposure, various infections, immunosuppression and repeated trauma (friction or scratching) (5).

Malignant transformation of porokeratosis occurs in 7.5% of cases (6). Long-term, extremity involvement, large-size lesions and ionizing radiation are the risk factors related to the malignant transformation of porokeratosis. Mazori et al. (7) reported a PP transforming into invasive squamous cell carcinoma for the first time. Therefore, periodic follow-up is recommended for the early diagnosis of potential squamous cell carcinomas, basal cell carcinomas, and melanomas.

PP appears to be refractory to conventional treatment. No standard treatment has been reported that shows complete clearance. Photodynamic therapy can be used as a therapeutic alternative treatment (8). Surgical approaches can be considered as an option for smaller lesions. A case of PP has been treated successfully with the dermatome (9). The patient was refractory to conventional treatments, and he was treated with a new approach using a dermatome to slice away the superficial tissue and showed complete remission (9).

REFERENCES

1. Lucker GP, Happle R, Steijlen PM. An unusual case of porokeratosis involving the natal cleft: porokeratosis ptychotropica? Br J Dermatol 1995; 132: 150–151.
2. Kogut M, Schiller M, Hadaschik E, Enk A, Haenssle HA. Porokeratosis ptychotropica involving the glans penis: a unique case of this rare condition. J Dtsch Dermatol Ges 2016; 14: 181–183.
3. Yu YF, Wu YH. Verrucous porokeratosis (porokeratosis ptychotropica) with dermal amyloid deposits. Dermatologica Sinica 2013; 31: 145–148.
4. Wang Q, Wan H, Liu W, Zhang L. Porokeratosis ptychotropica: a giant lesion in a Chinese man. Australas J Dermatol 2017; 58: e149–e150.
5. Chen TJ, Jou CY, Chen CH, Kuo TT, Hong HS. Genital porokeratosis: a series of 10 patients and review of the literature. Br J Dermatol 2006; 155: 325–329.
6. Tebet AC, Oliveira TG, Oliveira AR, Moriya FS, Oliveira J Filho, Cucé LC. Porokeratosis ptychotropica. An Bras Dermatol 2016; 91: 134–136.
7. Mazori DR, Shvartsbeyn M, Meehan SA, Tarsis SL. Transformation of porokeratosis ptychotropica into invasive squamous cell carcinoma. Int J Dermatol 2017; 56: 679–680.
8. Fustà-Novell X, Podlipnik S, Combilba A, Morgado-Carrasco D, Ferrando J, Mascaró JM Jr, et al. Porokeratosis ptychotropica responding to photodynamic therapy: an alternative treatment for a refractory disease. Photodermatol Photoimmunol Photomed 2017; 33: 271–274.
9. Scheiba N, Enk A, Proske S, Hartschuh W. Porokeratosis ptychotropica: successful treatment with the dermatome. Dermatol Surg 2010; 36: 257–260.