Hypergranulation tissue in the treatment of acne – good response to topical steroids

We report on a 15-year old patient who presented with fleshy, painful tumors on his upper back since about 6 months. Because of acne conglobate with pustules and cysts in his face, décolleté and upper back he was being treated with isotretinoine since one year.

Physical examination revealed multiple fleshy nodules on his upper back and on his décolleté. Histology showed granulation tissue.

After reduction of the isotretinoine dose from 60mg/day initially to 20mg/day and topical treatment with clobetasole ointment, the lesions were completely flattened and stopped bleeding after only 2 weeks. The boy was released from pain and could finally participate in his sport classes again. After tapering clobetasole over a month there were only found scars and teleangiectasias.

Hyperplastic granulation tissue is a rare side effect of systemic treatment with isotretinoine, which can have dramatic consequences for the patient and should be treated immediately.

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