Varicella Rash Concentrated in the Thigh Area

Ergin Çiftçi¹, Erdal İnce¹

¹ Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

A nine-year-old female patient was admitted with complaints of skin rash, and an examination of the patient revealed widespread papulovesicular lesions across her entire body, but concentrated particularly on the right thigh area. The patient had recently suffered a second-degree burn to the front and external side of her right thigh, and the area had been loosely bandaged. The patient was diagnosed with varicella. During follow-up, all of the patient’s rashes dried up and healed without complications.

Varicella is a disease that presents as a rash, and is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. The number of lesions observed varies from case to case. Age, exposure at home and suppression of the immune system can augment the severity of the disease. In varicella, lesions tend to be more concentrated on the body and face, while being sparser on the extremities. However, localized factors such as burns, prior skin disease and trauma can lead to concentrations of varicella lesions on the extremities. Localized pressure and increases in temperature can dilate blood vessels in the skin, increasing blood flow and causing more of the virus to reach the skin, which in turn increases the intensity of lesions in these areas. Lesions that extend beyond the dermatomes are important in differentiating the disease from disseminated herpes zoster.