CASE REPORT: COBBLESTONE

Bilateral groove sign with penoscrotal elephantiasis

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Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a sexually transmitted disease of the lymph channels caused by Chlamydia trachomatis, characterised by a small fleeting primary lesion followed by the development of suppurative regional lymphadenitis. Esthiomene, a rare late manifestation of LGV, is a primary infection affecting the lymphatics of scrotum, penis, or vulva. The male genitalia are affected less commonly by esthiomene, but we report a male patient who presented with inguinal syndrome, penoscrotal elephantiasis, along with enlargement of femoral lymph nodes.

A 40-year-old male patient, married, presented with swellings bilaterally in the inguinal and femoral region, after 1 month of unprotected extramarital sexual contact. The swellings were firm in consistency, slightly painful, and enlarged with the passage of time. The onset of swellings was accompanied by fever, arthralgia, and malaise. About 1 ½ months later, the patient developed firm swellings of the penis and scrotum along with thickening of the overlying skin. He denied any history of preceding genital ulceration or urethritis. There was no history of difficulty in defaecation, rectal discharge, or constipation.

On examination, oval, lobulated swellings were present in the inguinal folds and in the femoral region, bilaterally (fig 1). The lesions were adherent to overlying skin and fixed to the tissues, with chronic oedema and sclerosing fibrosis of subcutaneous tissues, which results in induration and enlargement of affected parts and ultimately in ulceration. The male genitalia are affected less commonly by esthiomene. We report a male patient who presented with inguinal syndrome, penoscrotal elephantiasis along with enlargement of femoral lymph nodes.

Elephantiasis of the penis and scrotum characterised by infiltrative, ulcerative, and fistular lesions occurs in approximately 4% of cases. 

This patient is being reported because of presence of a bilateral “groove sign” and penoscrotal elephantiasis, which in themselves are rare manifestations of LGV.

REFERENCES