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Picture Quiz: A Red Man on the AMU

A Kamour & A Thompson

Case Report

A fifty-eight year old man was referred to the Acute Medical Unit by his general practitioner with a generalised erythematous rash. The rash had appeared 3 weeks earlier, initially affecting his back, but had not responded to topical emollient treatment, nor the subsequent addition of an antibiotic.

On examination there was generalised erythema with thickening and cracking of the skin over his hands and feet (see Figures 1a and b). The patient was clinically dehydrated, with a tachycardia of 107 beats per minute.

Question

1. What is the cause of the generalised erythema?
2. What is the underlying diagnosis and how can this be confirmed?





Figure 1.

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