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Golden Lady

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Golden Lady

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Case Presentation

A 93-year-old woman presented with confluent yellow plaques with an intense golden glow symmetrically on the neck and lateral face (Figure 1, A and B) mimicking a golden camou-

flage. The histopathology showed CD68-positive foamy macrophages in the papillary dermis (Figure 1, C and D), leading to the diagnosis of plane xanthoma. Our patient showed mild dyslipidemia (total cholesterol 6.4 mmol/l [<5.0 mmol/l]). Clinical stigmata for familial hyperlipidemia were not pres-

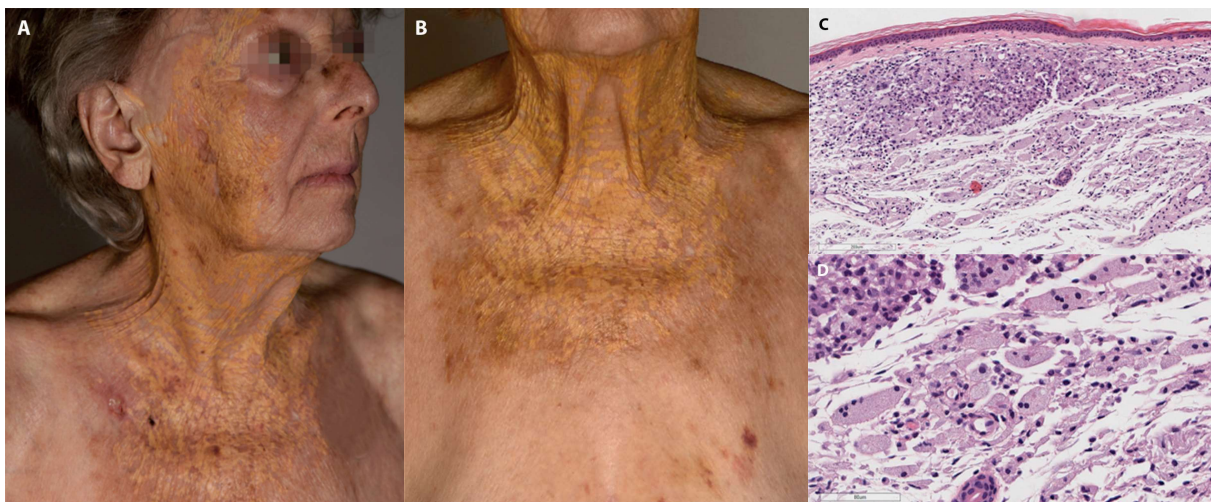


Figure 1. (A, B) Remarkable presentation of plane xanthoma on the neck and lateral face with a golden hue in a 93-year-old woman. (C, D) Histopathology of plane xanthoma with CD68-positive foamy macrophages in the papillary dermis.

ent. Due to the distribution pattern, underlying hematological disorders were ruled out.

Teaching Point

The location of plane xanthomas can serve as a clue to a particular underlying disease. Plane xanthomas in a normolipemic patient with favored distribution on the neck, upper trunk, and flexural folds should prompt a search of underlying hematological disorders such as monoclonal gammopathy or lymphoproliferative disease [1,2]. Plane xanthomas can

precede such disorders by several years; therefore, a regular follow-up is recommended.

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