

ONCODAILY MEDICAL JOURNAL

abstract

Ecthyma Gangrenosum in a Child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

**Walaa Ahmed Abdo Yahya, Enas Nagi Gaffer,
Tarek Ahmed**

DOI:10.69690/ODMJ-018-0425-2896



**7th Emirates Pediatric
Hematology & Oncology
Conference**

Emirates Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Conference,
2025, Abu Dhabi, UAE

abstract



Ecthyma Gangrenosum in a Child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

Authors: Walaa Ahmed Abdo Yahya¹, Enas Nagi Gaffer, Tarek Ahmed²

Affiliation: ¹ Ministry Of Health, Cairo, Egypt

² Institution Oncology Specialized Medical Center, Egypt

DOI: [10.69690/ODMJ-018-0425-2896](https://doi.org/10.69690/ODMJ-018-0425-2896)

Introduction: A 12-year-old female child presented with a progressive skin lesion diagnosed as Ecthyma gangrenosum, the growth of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was confirmed based on lesion progression, positive blood, patient's immunocompromised status, and tissue biopsy. The lesion was managed and treated with intravenous antibiotics and antifungals, conservatively with daily dressing.

Case presentation: A 12-year-old female, on relapsed leukemia protocol. She was admitted to the ICU with a disturbed consciousness level, hypotension, and hemorrhagic skin lesions in both the upper and lower limbs. Her medical history included a one-week duration of severe bone pain, fever, rhinorrhea, cough, epistaxis, and gastrointestinal symptoms. Initial investigations revealed elevated inflammatory markers, abnormal liver and kidney function, and a positive blood culture for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Started supportive treatment and an empirical; HD Meronum, Amikin, Vancomycin, and Ambizome. After 48 hours she was afebrile and vitally stable and she was transferred to a pediatric ward.

Despite this improvement, new progressive skin lesions with hemorrhagic necrosis developed, and the voriconazole level was within normal range.

Blood culture sensitivity results led to the addition of intravenous ciprofloxacin, and a tissue biopsy confirmed the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a high-level AmpC producer. Gentamicin was added to her regimen. After two weeks, her skin lesions improved significantly, and her blood counts and CRP returned to normal. She was discharged after 25 days with oral antibiotics (Co-trimoxazole and Ciprofloxacin) and follow-up recommendations.

Ecthyma gangrenosum (EG) is a rare cutaneous infection that mostly occurs in immunosuppression patients with considerable morbidity and mortality, caused by bacteria, fungi, and virus infection. *P. aeruginosa* is a rapidly spreading single or multiple necrotic skin lesion that might involve one or more sites in the body. The diagnosis is based on skin biopsy and blood cultures. A multidisciplinary team should be considered to improve outcomes.

Combined antimicrobial and surgical debridement should be considered as a standard of care, medical therapy alone may be sufficient for some patients. The clinical response depends on factors such as underlying diseases, severity and type of infection, adequate source control, and response to antibiotics. Local antiseptic agents like citric acid are recommended due to their antibacterial properties and role in enhancing wound healing.

Conclusion: EG is an infectious complication described in pediatric patients under treatment for hematological malignancy. Prompt recognition and timely adequate treatment are crucial for the prognosis.