Keep your eyes skinned

This 37-year-old man underwent renal transplantation 11 years ago. He initially received cyclosporine and prednisone as immunesuppressive medication but 5 years ago he was switched to azathioprine (2 mg/kg) and prednisone (0.1 mg/kg) because of biopsy proven renal cyclosporine toxicity. Since that period his creatinine was 96 μmol/l. He now presented himself with fever (39°C), malaise, arthralgia, and a generalized vesicular eruption. The cutaneous eruption had started as a macular exanthema 2 days earlier.

Question
What is your diagnosis?
(Answer on next page)

Fig. 1. Vesicular eruption on an erythematous base at presentation. Crusting older lesions as well as fresh lesions can be observed.
Answer to the quiz case on the preceding page: Varicella Zoster.

It turned out that this patient never had a primary varicella infection during his childhood. He had been in contact with the child of his employer, who was suffering from varicella. The patient was treated with acyclovir intravenously, but died despite this treatment 1 week later from an interstitial varicella pneumonia.

Suggested reading


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