

# Answers to Medical Quiz

## ANSWERS

1. Erythema Marginatum
2. Rheumatic Fever  
Drug Reactions  
Glomerulonephritis

**Erythema Marginatum** is the only significant cutaneous manifestation of rheumatic fever. It is considered a major manifestation and occasionally its appearance can be most helpful in making a diagnosis in patients with suggestive signs of rheumatic fever such as abdominal pain, arthralgia or questionable carditis. Like chorea, it often makes a delayed appearance. It usually cannot be correlated with other signs of rheumatic activity and it is unaffected by anti-inflammatory drugs.

Although erythema marginatum has its highest incidence in acute rheumatic fever (5-10% of the cases) it is not specific for this disease. It has been reported in drug reactions, in patients with glomerulonephritis, and in children in whom no etiologic factor could be found.

The lesions of erythema marginatum begin as small, pink or faintly red, slightly raised maculae. The erythema extends outwards causing a sharp margin, and coalesce to form a serpiginous pattern. The erythema in the center fades away and the skin returns to normal colour.

When the lesions are predominantly circular the term erythema annulare is used. They are non-pruritic and often very transient. They occur most commonly on the trunk and inner aspects of the upper arm and thigh. The lesions can be accentuated by local heat application.

Erythema marginatum may occur intermittently for many months in some patients.

## REFERENCES

1. Behrman RF, et al. Textbook of Paediatrics. In: Nelson 13th ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Co, 1987.
2. Markowitz M, Gordis L. Rheumatic Fever in Series Major problems. Clinical Paediatrics 1972; 2:2:74-75.