

Erythema Nodosum Masquerading as Cellulitis: A Diagnostic Challenge in a Paediatric Patient

Dr. Yousif Bakheet

Specialty Doctor, Paediatrics, Pilgrim Hospital, UK

Dr. Prerna Jain

Paediatrics SHO, Pilgrim Hospital, UK

Abstract:

Erythema nodosum (EN) is the most common form of panniculitis in children, often triggered by infectious agents. Its classic presentation includes tender, erythematous nodules on the anterior shins. However, atypical presentations may resemble cellulitis, potentially leading to misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment. We present the case of a 10-year-old boy who initially presented with features suggestive of bilateral lower limb cellulitis, unresponsive to antibiotics, and later diagnosed with extensive erythema nodosum likely secondary to post-streptococcal and Epstein-Barr virus exposure.