

BEREKET ROSE 142

History of the present illness: This 2 y.o. Ethiopian male presents with the chief complaint of spontaneous blisters over his body for the past 4 weeks. Even before that, from about 6 months of age, the child was in poor health, nursing poorly, gaining weight poorly, and with delayed developmental milestones.



Past medical and social history: The child is the third of four children, his younger sibling having died shortly after birth about 2 months ago. He has had no immunizations, no allergies, and is on no medications.

Physical exam: The child is alert and fussy; he appears chronically ill. Vital signs: T 99.6 rectal; P 120; R 30; Weight 7 kg. His skin has the

sores shown with similar ones on his back and his limbs. When the blister on his side is broken open, pus flows out. His head is normal size and shape. Pupils are equal, round, and responsive to light. Corneas are clear. The whites of the eyes are white. Inside the lower lids is quite red. The nose is normal shape and without sores. The outer

ears, canals, and ear drums are normal in appearance. He has numerous baby teeth; the mouth is moist. The tonsils are normal size and color.



There are a few enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, in front. The thyroid is not enlarged. The patient can move his neck in all directions without pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are present and normal. Liver and spleen are moderately enlarged. The abdomen is soft and non-tender. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the groin. The kidney area in back is not tender except for over the open blisters. Arms and legs show no swelling. The patient can move his limbs in all directions but he complains of pain. Respond.

Note: Use the 2010 updated protocols for this case. The sixth edition protocols are not helpful.

Options:

- Treat him yourself
 - Send him to a government clinic.
 - Deal with the public health implications of his illness.
 - Turn the family in to the public health authorities.
- s

Bereket Rose 142

Setting and past history:

Are his parents healthy? His mother is; his father is troubled by open sores but is able to work.

Do the father's open sores look like this? No, they are entirely different. They are skin ulcers which arise in clusters.

Was the child burned? No

Did anyone rub any ethnic medicine on his skin? No

Do they have any idea what might have caused these skin wounds? No idea at all.

Have any other children in the family died? Yes, there have been 2 miscarriages and 2 infant deaths, the younger sibling and one older than this child.

What kind of work does his father do? He is a clothing merchant; he travels to Addis Ababa to buy clothes and then sells the clothes in markets in the area.

Is the marriage happy? It's average.

What does the mother do? She stays at home; she is not educated.

What does the child eat? He is nursed and he eats plain bread in addition.

Present illness:

Do these skin blisters seem to hurt him? Yes

Has he vomited or had diarrhea? No

What is the time-course of the skin problems? First there are blisters, then the blisters break. Sometimes clear water runs out and sometimes pus. Then the top of the blister comes off, leaving a raw, open area where there is no skin.

