A case of Intravascular histiocytosis with rheumatoid arthritis

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Recently, there have been a small number of case reports with rheumatoid arthritis presenting with erythematous patches around joints, which histopathologically show histiocytic aggregations in dermal vessels. Intravascular histiocytosis (IVH) is a rare group of skin disease characterized by the proliferation of histiocytes in a vessel lumen, and is thought to arise as a benign reaction to certain stimuli, such as rheumatoid arthritis. But there are a few cases of IVH without rheumatoid arthritis also. The pathogenesis of this intravascular proliferation of histiocytes and reasons they commonly present on the arms are still unknown. We report a case of IVH with rheumatoid arthritis, presenting as erythematous papulonodules on the left antecubital area and demonstrating distinctive histopathological features of intravascular histiocytosis.