

A woman with a swollen, erythematous and tender thigh

S. Nauta^{1*}, M. van Marwijk Kooy², A.J.A.M. van der Ven¹

¹Department of Internal Medicine, University Medical Centre St Radboud, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, the Netherlands, e-mail: s.nauta@aig.umcn.nl, ²Department of Internal Medicine, Isala Clinics, location Sophia, Zwolle, the Netherlands, * corresponding author

CASE REPORT

A previously healthy 50-year-old woman presented with a swollen, erythematous and very tender right thigh. She also noticed small and painful erythematous noduli on her left anterior shin and on both upper arms. She had symptoms of general malaise, loss of appetite, weight loss, fatigue, fever and night sweats. On examination the patient appeared ill and pale, with a temperature of 38.8°C. The small nodular lesions had the appearance of an erythema nodosum and on her right thigh large subcutaneous noduli were present (*figure 1*). During hospitalisation the eruption on the right thigh resolved spontaneously and similar lesions appeared on the left thigh (*figure 2*).

Laboratory examination revealed a markedly elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate, anaemia, low albumin and liver enzyme abnormalities.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 303 for the answer to this photo quiz.



Figure 1
Swollen and erythematous right thigh at the moment of first presentation



Figure 2
Swollen and erythematous left thigh six weeks later while in the meantime the swelling of the right thigh has disappeared