

Question 19 – December 8

A 24 year old female with a 5 year history of Crohn's disease presents with a two day history of painful raised nodules on both her arms. The lesions are a few millimeters in size. She is febrile to 38.2 degrees Celsius and is found to have a WBC count of 12,800, 85% neutrophils. Biopsy of the skin lesions reveal a dense neutrophilic infiltrate without evidence of leukoclastic vasculitis. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Erythema nodosum
- B. Pyoderma gangrenosum
- C. Sweet syndrome
- D. Metastatic Crohn's disease

Answer: C

Sweet Syndrome is characterized by raised painful nodules, most commonly on the upper extremities. They can occur however on the trunk, face, and lower extremities as well. It is usually associated with fever and leukocytosis. Conditions most frequently associated with Sweet syndrome are: infection, inflammatory bowel disease and pregnancy. Biopsy of the skin lesions show a dense neutrophilic infiltrate without evidence of leukoclastic vasculitis. First line therapy for Sweet syndrome is corticosteroids.

References:

1. Sleisenger and Fordtran's Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease, 9th ed