DIAGNOSIS:

SKIN, RIGHT LOWER LEG, EXCISION – ACUTE NECROTIZING VASCULITIS WITH ASSOCIATED ORGANIZING VASCULAR THROMBOSIS (SEE COMMENT).

Microscopic Description: Microscopic tissue sections demonstrate focal epidermal erosion with granulation tissue reaction in the superficial dermis. The deep dermis and subcutaneous adipose tissue is characterized by acute vasculitis of small to medium sized arterioles with fibrinoid necrosis of the vascular wall and karyorrhectic debris. Rare vessels show organizing vascular thrombi. Patchy changes consistent with fat necrosis are seen surrounding thrombosed vessels.

Comment: Differential diagnostic considerations include polyarteritis nodosa, leukocytoclastic vasculitis, microscopic polyangiitis, Henoch-Schonlein purpura (HSP), other causes of systemic vasculitis, and/or systemic hypercoaguability. This constellation of histologic findings favors the most likely diagnosis as polyarteritis nodosa in the appropriate clinical setting. Correlation with clinical findings and laboratory data required.

CLINICAL INFORMATION: Painful skin nodules bilateral lower extremities.

SPECIMEN: SKIN, Right Lower Leg
GROSS DESCRIPTION:

“Biopsy Right lower leg” per requisition

Received in formalin is a elliptical portion of tan skin that measures 5.0 x 2.0 cm excised to a depth of 1.0 cm. There is a vague reddish tan discoloration seen on the skin surface with focal central ulceration. The unoriented surgical margins are inked in black. The tips are submitted in block 1. The remaining tissue submitted in blocks 2-7.. (bits ns, 7) cdm

AHD/AHD

Case reviewed at Summa Barberton Hospital 155 5th St. NE Barberton, OH 44203.