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Erysipeloid cutaneous metastases

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MATERIAL & METHODS: We present a woman aged 70y.o., complaining of redness, edema and induration of the lower limbs, which has lasted for more than 3 months. At the time of presentation the dermatological status consists of erythematous and edematous plaques covering the whole left leg and extending towards the abdomen. The plaques are painless and indurated on palpation. Small indurated nodules are also seen on the abdomen, which appeared in the last few weeks.

RESULTS: Medical history reveals a surgically removed adenocarcinoma of the uterus 2 years ago, which was followed by chemotherapy. The patient has been treated with antibiotics for erysipelas, with no effect. We performed a deep biopsy of the lesions, which revealed metastatic malignant blastoma of the skin.

CONCLUSIONS: We present this case as a rare clinical form of cutaneous metastases, which did not start around the surgical cicatrix, as is the most common case, and mimicked erysipelas. This metastatic clinical entity needs to be recognized due to its tendency of the cancer cells to spread widely in the skin, thus giving a poor prognosis and outcome. Our patient was started on further chemotherapy, and passed away about 6 months later.