


Systemic lupus erythematosus, varicella-like rash, and COVID-19

To the Editor,

We would like to shared ideas on the report on “Systemic lupus erythematosus and varicella-like rash following COVID-19.”¹ Slimani et al.¹ mentioned that “COVID-19 triggered systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) has never been reported to our knowledge.” The atypical clinical presentation in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is possible and there are many skin disorder caused by immunopathological process due to COVID-19.² For SLE, there has already been a previous report on SLE and COVID-19 with possible antiphospholipid syndrome.³ The copresentation is might be a coincidence and it is not possible to prove that COVID-19 triggers SLE in the case report. Finally, the cross-reaction by serological test for SLE and COVID-19 is possible and this is an important consideration in diagnosing COVID-19 and possible COVID-19-related immune disorder.⁴ Focusing on a varicella-like rash, it is a possible skin lesion in COVID-19. A remained question is also whether there is a concurrent between COVID-19 and varicella in the patient. The coinfection has just been reported in a pediatric COVID-19 case.⁵ There should be a proof to rule out varicella in the patient before making a conclusion that the problem is COVID-19-related varicella-like lesion.

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