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Answer: THE GREAT MASQUERADE- PITYRIASIS ROSEA

A diagnosis of pityriasis rosea was made. The child and her guardian were reassured regarding the benign nature of the condition which should resolve spontaneously by six to eight weeks without any specific treatment. The patient was seen at after eight weeks where the lesions had completely resolved.

Pityriasis rosea is a benign condition of the skin, often known as masquerade due to seemingly severe state of its' presentation and frequent misdiagnosis as eczema or tinea infection. It usually starts as a single large patch on the body called herald patch (marked with arrow).¹ It is usually followed by appearance of so-called smaller daughter patches all over the body which are oval shaped and arranged in a Christmas/Fir Tree pattern.¹ There is usually sparing of the palm, soles, face and scalp in many ethnicities except for in the black population.²

It is usually asymptomatic but may be associated with mild itchiness. Cause of pityriasis rosea is unknown. Common differential diagnosis is tinea versicolor, tinea corporis, psoriasis and eczema or secondary syphilis.³

This condition is entirely benign, and usually completely resolves by six to eight weeks.³ Therefore, patients or their guardians should be reassured that no treatment is usually necessary and complete resolution is usually the final outcome. Recurrences are extremely rare.³ The condition may be associated with several viral infection including infection with Human Herpes virus 6 and 7.³

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DECLARATION

The author declares not conflict of interest or any financial interest.

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