



## Terra firma-forme Dermatitis in Children

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### Dear Editor,

Terra firma forme dermatosis (TFFD) is a benign skin disorder characterized by hyperpigmented plaques on the skin that give the appearance of dirt (1). It is most commonly observed in prepubertal children and adolescents (2). The head, trunk, extremities, and folds are the most common sites (3). Affected individuals usually have normal hygiene habits (4). It cannot be removed by washing with soap and water, but disappears completely after rubbing with 70% ethyl alcohol (5,6). Although the etiology of TFFD is not fully understood, it is thought to be caused by delayed keratinocyte maturation and melanin retention (7,8). Atopic predisposition may contribute to this condition (9).

In this article, we report a 6-year-old girl who presented with skin lesions and had no significant medical history (Figure 1). The patient reported the presence of hyperpigmented plaques on her lower extremities for the past year, which resembled dirt but did not disappear with regular washing. Her family history included 3 second-degree relatives with allergic asthma. Physical examination revealed reticulated brown lesions on both legs. There was no history of inflammatory dermatosis in the affected areas. Other physical examination findings were unremarkable. The lesions disappeared completely after rubbing with 70% ethyl alcohol (Figure 2). This confirmed the diagnosis of TFFD.

The differential diagnosis of TFFD includes acanthosis nigricans, seborrheic keratosis, dermatosis neglecta, and papillomatosis (10). Papillomatosis reticularis is usually characterized by papules on the trunk. Acanthosis nigricans is characterized by hyperpigmentation of the skin folds. Erythematous plaques with a yellowish tinge are characteristic of seborrheic dermatitis. Dermatitis neglecta typically affects individuals of all ages who have neglected hygiene. TFFD can be confused with other dermatoses, so early diagnosis avoids complicated and unnecessary additional testing. With this

Letter to the Editor, we would like to emphasize that alcohol wiping of the lesion in TFFD, which is rare in children, is both diagnostic and therapeutic, eliminating the need for unnecessary laboratory tests or biopsy.



Figure 1. Terra firma-forme dermatosis presenting as a dirt-like brown plaque on the skin of the lower extremities of a six-year-old girl.



Figure 2. Skin appearance after rubbing the lesion with isopropyl alcohol.



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