

This Month in *JAAD* Case Reports



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Lichen planus (LP) is a common inflammatory disorder that can present with various morphologies. It commonly affects the skin, oral and genital mucosa, the scalp, and nails. It can less commonly affect the esophageal, laryngeal, and conjunctival mucosa. Otic LP has rarely been described.

In the February 2021 edition of *JAAD Case Reports*, Guo et al¹ described a case of severe otic LP that presented with otorrhea and mixed hearing loss refractory to topical steroids, tacrolimus, and antibiotics. She had a 20-year history of mucocutaneous LP controlled with hydroxychloroquine, doxycycline, and topical steroids. After LP was confirmed following a biopsy of the right external ear canal, her symptoms were ultimately controlled with mycophenolate mofetil.

LP of the tympanic membranes and/or external ear canals is extremely uncommon, with less than 30 cases reported. The vast majority of these cases were diagnosed clinically in the setting of otic symptoms and mucocutaneous LP. Sartori-Valinotti et al² presented the largest series to date of otic LP and

Abbreviation used:

LP: lichen planus

concluded that it is likely to be much more common than previously reported and, although it can be an isolated finding, it is most often diagnosed in patients with the previously diagnosed mucocutaneous LP. The report by Guo et al¹ emphasized the need to perform an otic review of systems when evaluating patients with LP to assess for ear pain, pruritus, otorrhea, or hearing loss.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

REFERENCES

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