Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy

Thickening and puckering of skin commonly affecting the thigh area.

Erythema with skin tightening and hyperpigmented plaques.

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A 50-year-old, African American female was admitted with acute kidney injury from acute allograft rejection and underwent MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) with gadolinium. Hemodialysis was initiated secondary to graft failure 2 days later. Over the next 30 days, skin tightening was noticed initially in the lower extremities, which gradually progressed to involve the back and upper limbs. Ankle and knee joints developed contractures, leading to immobility. Skin biopsy revealed dermal sclerosis with fibrocytic proliferation, consistent with nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy (NFD). NFD is an uncommon, but increasingly recognized, skin condition observed in patients with renal failure who were exposed to gadolinium.

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