

# Severe skin toxicity due to weekly paclitaxel administration

A 35-year-old lady was diagnosed with a left-sided breast cancer (infiltrating ductal carcinoma, grade 2, estrogen receptor/progesterone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 negative). She received neoadjuvant anthracycline-based chemotherapy, followed by breast conserving surgery. Postoperatively she commenced weekly paclitaxel 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week. After the 8<sup>th</sup> dose, she presented with painful swelling of hands, feet and a bilateral symmetrical rash over the extensor surfaces of legs up to the knees-ill-defined macules, papules and pustules with surrounding erythema [Figures 1a and 1b]. She improved with a 5-day course of low dose oral prednisolone and an oral antibiotic. Chemotherapy was terminated and she was started on adjuvant tamoxifen.

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**Figure 1a:** Severe skin toxicity due to weekly paclitaxel-bilaterally symmetrical rash over the extensor surfaces of legs up to knees comprising of ill-defined macules, papules and pustules with surrounding erythema



**Figure 1b:** Swelling of the hands with ill-defined macules and papules with diffuse erythema

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