Young Woman With Fever, Rash, Joint Pain, and Photophobia

The patient is plagued by problems: Severe headaches, nausea, vomiting, a rash, chest and abdominal pains, and by the time she reaches a rheumatologist, periorbital edema and photophobia. Can you guess the cause?

Source: Rheumatology Network

The woman with this rash has been revisiting the clinic with a variety of symptoms: Initially chronic headache, nausea and vomiting, ankle pain and swelling and then, a few days ago, this rash.

The biopsy revealed superficial perivascular dermatitis. Prednisone was initiated, presuming an autoimmune disorder, but she returned a few days later with worsened headache, now exacerbated by chest pains and abdominal pain. Serology has ruled out a large number of infectious possibilities, and the patient has made her way to the rheumatology department. She now reports continued low-grade fevers and arthralgia, but rheumatologists also observe new-onset right periorbital edema and erythema, and the patient now exhibits photophobia. Can you guess the diagnosis?

Click here for the complete case study and discussion.

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