

VARICELLA ZOSTER INFECTION

Microscopy: Skin shows suprabasal blister with acantholysis and multinucleate keratinocytes containing COWDRY-A type nuclear inclusions, moulding and margination of nuclear chromatin. Dermis shows perivascular mixed inflammation. No evidence of dysplasia or malignancy seen.

Diagnosis:

Varicella Zoster Infection of skin

Comment:

1. Presents as painful, pruritic blisters in immunosuppressed patients in a dermatomal pattern.
2. Primary infection leads to virus lying dormant within sensory ganglia.
3. Reactivation of infection occurs when host becomes immunocompromised.
4. Culture can differentiate between herpes simplex and Varicella Zoster Infection.
5. Treatment is Acyclovir.