The Yellow Clod Sign

Alexander A. Navarini, MD, PhD; Laurence Feldmeyer, MD, PhD; Bettina Töndury, MD; Philipp Fritsche, MD; Jivko Kamarashev, MD; Lars E. French, MD; Ralph P. Braun, MD; University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

NUMMULAR OR DYSREGULATIVE MICROBIAL ECZEMA, which is a subtype of chronic dermatitis, is characterized by coin-shaped, sharply demarcated, erythematous lesions1,2 with serous exudates demonstrated on dermatopathologic examination.3 These serum exudates can be seen dermoscopically as shiny yellow clods with a diameter of 1 to 2 mm. The closest differential diagnoses, which are psoriasis and tinea corporis, typically do not have them. Figure 1 (upper inset) shows a roundish nummular eczema with multiple yellow clods (Figure 1, original magnification ×10) on the calf of a 51-year-old man. Other dermoscopic features of nummular eczema are evident on the back of the hand of a 76-year-old man (Figure 2). These clods are not visible without immersion fluid but are readily identifiable when the lesion is prewetted. Figure 1 (lower inset) shows a hematoxylin-eosin–stained biopsy specimen of the serum crust seen in Figure 1. Bleeding lesions, such as pyogenic granulomas,4 excoriations, or basal cell carcinomas, form reddish crusts instead.