

*Letter to the Editor-Editöre mektup*

## **Erythema ab igne induced by a laptop computer**

*Dizüstü bilgisayara bağlı eritema ab igne*

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Dear Editor

Erythema ab igne (EAI) or 'toasted skin' is a reticular, telangiectatic, pigmented dermatosis, occurring after long-term exposure to infrared radiation that is insufficient to produce a burn [1]. Only few case report is founded in literature about laptop computer-induced erythema ab igne [2]. A 31-year-old woman presented with a 8-week history of an asymptomatic patch on her left thigh. On physical examination, there was a fairly well-defined, brown, mildly erythematous, reticulated patch on the left anterior thigh (Figure). This asymptomatic eruption was noticed 1 week before acceptance. The patient is a medical staff who spends a considerable amount of time each night using her computer. She frequently placed the computer on her anterior thighs while at work. She stopped placing the computer on her thighs after she repeatedly experienced discomfort from heat emitted from the base of the laptop. The lesion was isolated to the left anterior thigh, because the heat source (optical drive) was located on the left base of the computer. By stopping the heat exposure, progression could be halted and adjuvan therapy was not needed for treatment.



**Figure: View of erythema ab igne on the left anterior thigh induced by laptop computer.**

EAI often begins as mild localized erythema. Repeated exposures to moderate heat may result in reticulate erythema, hyperpigmentation, telangiectasia, scaling, and atrophy [3]. Histopathological changes include hyperkeratosis, epidermal atrophy, squamous atypia, and interface dermatitis with necrotic keratinocytes. Rare cases of squamous cell carcinoma and Merkel cell carcinoma arising in lesions of EAI have been reported [4]. We present this case to provide awareness of this rare source of EAI that is likely to become more common as the use of laptops increase. Patients should be instructed to discontinue close contact with source of infrared radiation. A biopsy should be performed if there is any evidence of cutaneous malignancy.

### References

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