

Ann Sterkens\*, Hannelore George\*, Olivier Aerts

\*shared first authors

Department of Dermatology  
University Hospital of Antwerp (UZA), Belgium

## Background

**Giant Cellulitis like-Sweet Syndrome** is a rare variant of Sweet syndrome that is **easily confused with bacterial cellulitis** or erysipelas. Patients present with episodes of fever and large erythematous skin plaques, often and typically **recurring in the same skin locations**. When infection is excluded, immune-suppressive or -modulating treatment is often indicated, although spontaneous resolution may occasionally occur (1). Screening for **underlying systemic diseases and/or malignancy** should equally be done (2).

## Case reports

**Patient 1** (woman, 57-years-old)

- fever, general malaise
- large, sharply defined, warm, asymmetrical distributed plaques over the breasts and back
- 20<sup>th</sup> episode (!) in 12 months time
- always affecting the same skin locations
- spontaneous resolution in 7-10 days

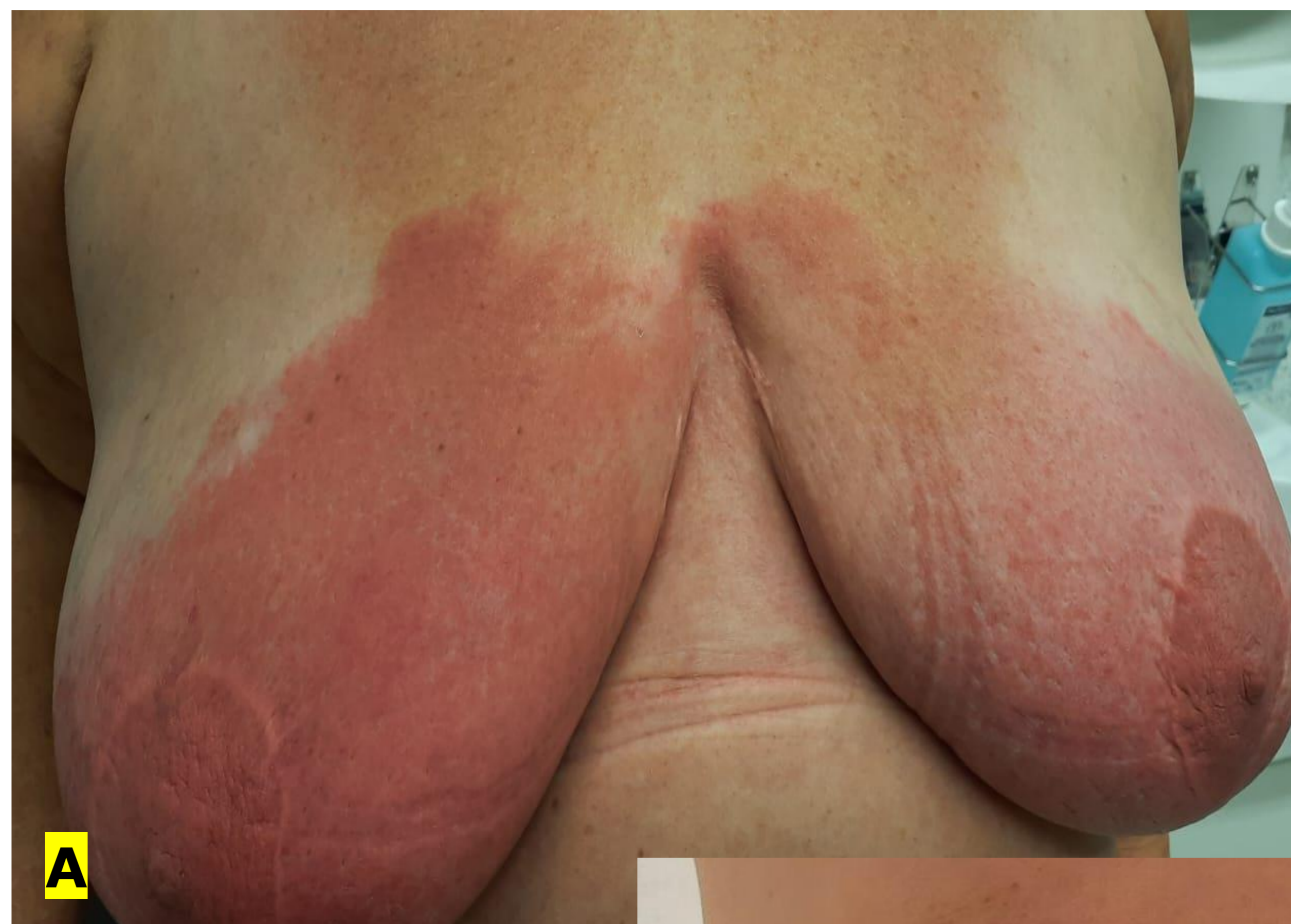
**Patient 2** (woman, 65-years-old)

- fever, general malaise
- large, warm plaques on the buttocks
- 6<sup>th</sup> episode in 5-6 years time
- always affecting the same skin locations
- some, but not all, episodes had been managed with systemic antibiotics, although not influencing the time needed to heal

**Both patients**

- **laboratory:** elevated C-reactive protein (>100 mg/L) and leukocytosis with neutrophilia
- **infectious & systemic work-up:** never any (skin) infection found & no underlying diseases (yet: follow-up!)
- **skin histology:** dermal oedema, dense infiltrate of neutrophils: Sweet syndrome?
- **treatment:** minocycline (patient 1), dapsone (patient 2), with so far no further episodes

## Figures



**Figure A-B: Patient 1:** 20<sup>th</sup> episode of sharp asymmetrical warm plaques over the breasts and back

**Figure C: Patient 2:** 6<sup>th</sup> episode of large asymmetrical warm plaques over the buttocks

## References

1. Mitaka H., Jammal R., Saabiye J, Yancovitz S. & Permaln D. Giant cellulitis-like Sweet syndrome: An underrecognized clinical variant mimicking skin and soft tissue infection. IDCases, 2020, Vol 21
2. Koketsu H, Ricotti C, Kerdel FA. Treatment of giant cellulitis-like Sweet syndrome with dapsone. JAMA Dermatol. 2014 Apr;150(4):457-9.

## Take home message

**When patients present with recurrent episodes of fever, malaise and large, asymmetrical erythematous plaques, always occurring in the same skin locations, then Giant Cellulitis-like Sweet Syndrome (GCSS) should be considered in the differential diagnosis, and appropriate investigations and treatment should be initiated.**

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**Contact:** [ann.sterkens@uza.be](mailto:ann.sterkens@uza.be)  
[hannelore.george@uza.be](mailto:hannelore.george@uza.be)