

# Painful Purple Toes

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A 63-year-old man presented with sudden onset of severe pain in the right hallux and fifth toe of 3 days' duration. The patient had hypertension and hyperlipidemia with a 45-year history of smoking and had not undergone any vascular procedures. Physical examination revealed relatively well-defined cyanotic change with remarkable coldness on the affected toes as well as livedo reticularis on the underside of the toes. All peripheral pulses were present. Laboratory

investigation revealed no remarkable changes with eosinophil counts within reference range and normal renal function. A biopsy taken from the fifth toe revealed thrombotic arterioles with cholesterol clefts.

## What's the diagnosis?

- a. arteriovenous malformation
- b. blue toe syndrome
- c. cutaneous polyarteritis nodosa
- d. livedo vasculitis
- e. thrombophlebitis

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The authors report no conflict of interest.

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