

CASE 25-2

A 62-year-old man presents with a 3-month history of asymptomatic, nonpalpable, nonblanching, cayenne pepper patches on the legs. He has no systemic complaints, denies any new medications, or trauma.

What is the one most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Schamberg's purpura
- (B) Vitamin C deficiency
- (C) Stasis dermatitis
- (D) Leukocytoclastic vasculitis
- (E) Cholesterol emboli



The correct answer is (A), Schamberg's purpura.

Schamberg's purpura is characterized by asymptomatic or slightly pruritic, orange or brown macules (nonpalpable) typically on the lower extremities. The eruption is generally chronic and may persist for years. It is not a manifestation of systemic disease, and generally resolves spontaneously.

Vitamin C deficiency presents with perifollicular hemorrhage. Leukocytoclastic vasculitis is characterized by palpable purpura. Cholesterol emboli typically manifest with distal livedo reticularis, and stasis dermatitis typically has more diffuse dyspigmentation and is accompanied by lower extremity edema.