

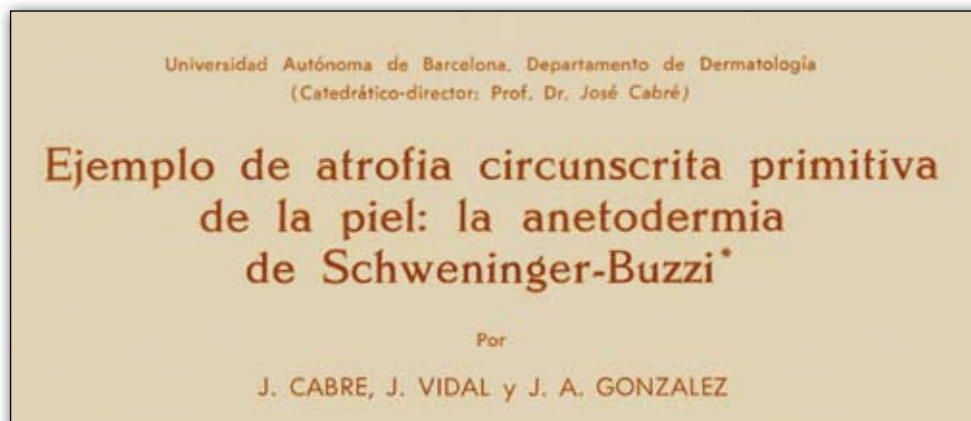
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Example of Primary Circumscribed Atrophy of the Skin: Schweninger-Buzzi Anetoderma, By J. Cabré, J. Vidal, and J.A. González

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Abstract. In light of the centenary of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, we recall a paper published in 1973 by José Cabré, an influential figure in dermatology at the time, and the first Spaniard to sit on the International Committee of Dermatology.

Key words: José Cabré, anetoderma, history of dermatology, Schweninger-Buzzi.

EJEMPLO DE ATROFIA CIRCUNSCRITA PRIMITIVA DE LA PIEL: LA ANETODERMIA DE SCHWENINGER-BUZZI, POR J. CABRÉ, J. VIDAL Y J.A. GONZÁLEZ

Resumen. Con motivo del centenario de la Academia Española de Dermatología y Venereología se evoca una publicación realizada por José Cabré en 1973, influyente figura en la Dermatología de su época y el segundo español en figurar en el Comité Internacional de Dermatología.

Palabras clave: José Cabré, anetodermia, historia Dermatología, Schweninger-Buzzi.

This article was selected according to a variety of criteria. On the one hand, this is an article of interest on a rare disease. On the other hand, it was chosen for its author, Professor José Cabré, one of the most prestigious and influential dermatologists of the third quarter of the 20th century, not only in Spain but internationally. I am honored to have been his student and friend.

José Cabré Piera (1933-1981) was an influential figure without whom it would be impossible to understand dermatology during this period. The son of the dermatologist Josep Cabré Claramunt, after earning his medical degree he assumed the chair of Professor Xavier Vilanova, becoming part of the flourishing school of Catalan dermatology that included such outstanding figures as Dulanto, Moragas, Piñol, Giménez Camarasa, Mascaró, Grimalt, Alvarado, Romaguera, and so on.

Cabré had a gift for languages. He studied in French for his baccalaureate (which he was able to validate in just 1 year, in 1949¹) and also spoke German and English fluently. Soon after completing his undergraduate degree he began a period of intensive postgraduate training, first in Toulouse, where his father had studied, with Professor Nanta, and later in several German universities (Frankfurt, Göttingen, and Mainz) over a long period of 8 years, working with such eminent professors as Korting, Gottron, Steigleder, and Oscar Gans, from whom he obtained a solid clinical grounding and knowledge of histopathology. He obtained his doctorate from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität in Frankfurt, writing his dissertation, *Lymphocytic infiltration of the skin*, under the direction of Professors Oscar Gans and Steigleder, and was awarded the title of head clinician (*Oberarzt*), at that time an honor to which few foreign physicians could aspire. He completed his training in Paris in the Hôpital Saint Louis with Robert Degos. It was there that he met one of his closest friends, J. M. Mascaró, with whom he organized

famous seminars on histopathology that lasted well into the night.^{2,3} In 1962 he also earned a doctorate from the University of Barcelona with a dissertation on *Mucinous dermatoses*.⁴ He was one of the first Spaniards to write about follicular mucinosis.⁵

This extended period of time spent in a variety of schools in different countries gave him a pluralistic and very complete vision of dermatology.⁶ On the strength of his training and numerous publications in German, French, and Spanish journals of dermatology, Cabré obtained the Chair of Dermatology at the University of Cádiz in 1964 at the very young age of 31. His work there in the medical school, of which he became dean in 1970, left a deep imprint still evident today. He has been remembered over the years in the Professor José Cabré Memorial Lectures, organized by Professor J. Calap at the medical school in Cádiz.

In 1970 he also became president of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and took over the editorship of *Actas Dermosifiliográficas*, encouraging the publication of articles in that journal and guaranteeing its viability at a difficult time in its history. A prolific writer, he often made up for the lack of submissions by others.

When the Autonomous University of Barcelona was founded in 1968, he returned to the city of his birth, first as dean of the medical school and later, in 1975, as university rector—a turbulent year in which the Franco dictatorship came to an end. His deep commitment to the university led him on several occasions to accept positions of responsibility even under very difficult circumstances.

In 1976, Cabré occupied the First Chair of Dermatology, left vacant by the retirement of Gay Prieto,⁷ at Madrid's Complutense University. At that time, this position had at its disposal more than 50 hospital beds, an operating theater, and its own histopathology, mycology, and serology laboratories, as well as a library stocked with the



Figure. Professor José Cabré at a conference in Madrid in 1977.

most important dermatological texts and both European and American dermatology journals.

Cabré's publications in the field of dermatology are many and varied, dealing with the clinical and histopathological subjects that are his specialty. Especially noteworthy among these are his abovementioned writings on mucinosis,^{8,9} scleroderma¹⁰⁻¹⁴ and other collagen diseases,¹⁵⁻¹⁶ lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, scleredema of Buschke,¹⁷ Marfan syndrome,¹⁸ eosinophilic granuloma,^{19,20} herpes gestationis,^{21,22} Reiter syndrome,²³ Darier disease,²⁴ genodermatosis,²⁵ porphyria, etc.²⁶ The tumors he studied include paraneoplastic dermatosis,²⁷ especially psoriasiform acrokeratosis or Bazex syndrome²⁸ (he was the first in Spain to describe a case of this), intraepidermal epithelioma,^{29,30} follicular poroma, eccrine spiradenoma,³¹ nevus lipomatosus,³² lymphoma,³³ Kaposi sarcoma, etc. He also directed a number of doctoral dissertations dealing with subjects such as basal cell carcinoma (Ana de Cos, 1979), Behçet disease (Luis Cros, 1976), Degos disease (Julio A. González, 1976), fungoid mycosis (Fernando González de Canales, 1980), and electron microscopy of

Langerhans cells (Luis Olmos, 1980).³⁴ Having learned a great deal from him over the years in which we worked together, both at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Complutense University of Madrid, I was honored to have him as the director of my dissertation on Jacobi atrophic vascular poikiloderma (Xavier Sierra, 1980).³⁵

In recognition of his extensive body of work in dermatology and well-established network of international contacts, Cabré (Figure) was appointed to the International Committee of the International League of Dermatology Associations, an honor previously bestowed only once on a Spaniard, Professor José Gay Prieto. Upon his death, the committee named as his replacement his close friend J.M. Mascaró, who thus became the third Spaniard to occupy this position.

Cabré's interests, however, were not limited to dermatology. He was deeply conscious of the importance of history in all human endeavors, and the history of medicine was of special interest to him.³⁶ For a number of years he taught classes in the history of medicine at the University of Cádiz, and in our wide-ranging conversations he imparted to me his experiences working alongside the great European professors of dermatology, sowing in me seeds of interest in the history of this specialty that later bore fruit in several publications.³⁷⁻⁴¹

The article that is the subject of this comment is but one sample of the many contributions of the team led by Cabré, and it is coauthored by two of his most illustrious colleagues, Jordi Vidal Lliteras and Julio A. González Fernández. Both shared teaching responsibilities with him in Cádiz and in Barcelona. Vidal later worked at 2 Barcelona hospitals, Bellvitge and Vall d'Hebron, and Julio González, after working with Cabré during part of the latter's time in Madrid, returned to Cádiz.

Schweningen-Buzzi anetoderma is a rare form of circumscribed atrophy of the skin. Cabré had already devoted his attention to this disease on several occasions.⁴²⁻⁴⁴ In the article he published with Korting and Holzmann he described in detail the symptoms of this kind of anetoderma. In the publication commented on here, its clinical features are closely studied, and the authors note the dearth of histopathological data, questioning its nosological classification. They also alert the reader to the possibility of an association with bone lesions, lupus erythematosus, and other disorders such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. In addition, they speculate on the possible role of certain infectious episodes in some cases.

To sum up, I believe that this article from *Actas Dermosifiliográficas* can be considered an example of the contribution made to the field of dermatology by José Cabré, a charismatic figure in his own time who deserves to be remembered for the important role he played as one of the founders of our specialty.

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