Case Presentation

An otherwise healthy 5-year-old girl presented during the summer with painful shiny erythematous patches and some blisters on the finger pads of both hands and on the palms of 1 week's duration (Figure 1). On further questioning, her father mentioned that she had been playing and swimming all week in a swimming pool. A diagnosis of pool palms was made. Avoidance of the swimming pool for a couple of days was recommended. No further treatment was indicated.
Teaching Point

Pool palms is a relatively frequent benign disorder, although scarcely described in the literature. It is a frictional dermatitis that affects the skin of the hands and feet after repeated contact with rough pool surfaces [1]. It is more frequent in childhood, probably because of children’s skin fragility and their tendency to rub against the pool surface when playing [2]. Cessation of the activity leads to rapid symptom resolution.

References