The importance of assessment prior to venepuncture is highlighted in this article.


Abstract:

AIM: To emphasise the importance of careful observations and demonstrate that significant conditions may, on occasion, be detected during blood donation.

BACKGROUND: Venepunctures, the bread and butter of blood donor services, can be difficult procedures. We describe an unusual presentation of a relatively rare disease detected during routine blood donations because of difficult venepunctures.

METHODS: Case report.

RESULTS: A growth hormone-secreting pituitary adenoma was diagnosed, and successfully treated, following the initial observation of hard-to-puncture skin during blood donations.

CONCLUSIONS: Seemingly trivial abnormalities may prove clinically important. One presentation of acromegaly is hard-to-puncture skin.