**BACKGROUND**

- In India, majorly in the southern states, piercings of metal spears and hooks, kavadi (wood steel bearings with idols) on the cheeks, tongue, chest or back is a common ritual done during Tamil month of Thaipusam.
- This leads to the rare occurrence of sarcoidal granulomatous reaction developing at the sites of piercings.

**CASE DETAILS**

- 26 year old male patient
- Multiple swellings over the face and mucous areas of the mouth progressively enlarging in size and painful
- Similar lesions were present on chest wall and back for the past 3 months
- Detailed history revealed piercing with metal spears through his cheeks and torso during “Thaipusam” a few months
- Smearing of the holy ash on to the spears and hooks before they were pierced
- Physical examination - multiple nodules on both sides of his cheeks, chest and back, approximately 2 cms in size, firm
- Biopsy revealed multiple, naked non-caseating granulomas with numerous foreign body type of giant cells. Stains for the fungus and AFB were negative.
- A diagnosis of cutaneous sarcoidosis was given.

**FOREIGN MATERIAL PRODUCING SARCOIDAL GRANULOMAS**

- Silica (including windshield glass)
- Beryllium
- Zinc
- Acrylic or nylon fibers
- Keratin from ruptured cysts (uncommon)
- Exogenous ochronosis
- Sea-urchin spines
- Cactus
- Wheat stubble
- Desensitizing injections
- Ophthalmic drops (sodium bisulfite)
- Sulfonamides
- Interferon injection sites

**DISCUSSION**

- Dermal infiltrate of naked sarcoidal granulomas
- Increased mucin (20% of cases)
- Asteroid bodies and conchoideal bodies (Schaumann bodies) may be seen in multinucleate giant cells

**TYPES OF GRANULOMAS**

- Sarcoideal
- Tuberculoid
- Necrobiotic
- Xanthogranulomas
- Miscellaneous