A Young Woman with Diffuse Skin Lesions
(See pages 248–249 for the Answer to the Photo Quiz.)

Figure 1. Lesions on the skin of the patient.

A 26-year-old woman was referred to our institution with chronic productive cough, generalized lymphadenopathy (LAP), hepatomegaly, thrombocytopenia, and cutaneous lesions. LAP, hepatomegaly, and thrombocytopenia had been present since infancy. The patient underwent splenectomy for a diagnosis of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) at 9 years of age. She was admitted to the hospital for bacterial meningitis 8 years before the current presentation and recalls having experienced recurrent pneumonia, sinusitis, and chronic diarrhea during this time. Her treatment consisted of prednisolone, a short course of cyclosporine and azathioprine before splenectomy, and intermittent outpatient antibiotic therapy for respiratory infections.

At her most recent presentation, she reported a 4-month history of diffuse skin lesions. A physical examination was remarkable for the following findings: multiple small, smooth, palpable, non-tender lymph nodes on the posterior cervical, left axillary, and supraclavicular regions; hepatomegaly; and rhonchi over both lung fields. Diffuse lesions were present on the trunk, back, extremities, and external genitalia (Figure 1). High-resolution computed tomography of the lung (Figure 2) and computed tomography of the sinuses and abdomen were performed. The results of a complete blood cell count were normal except for a platelet count of 64,000 platelets/μL. The patient’s blood biochemistry and electrolyte profile and the results of renal and
hepatic function tests and urinalysis were normal. Purified protein derivative tests had negative results, as did sputum smear, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and culture for mycobacterial, fungal, and pathogenic bacterial agents. The patient’s angiotensin-converting enzyme level was normal. Test results were negative for anti-streptolysin O, anti–human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), anti–hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B surface antigen, and antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen were negative (despite full vaccination for hepatitis B virus). Results of PCR of blood samples for HIV, Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus were negative.

What is your diagnosis?