



# Livedo racemosa generalisata: an anthological vision through Vladímir Lébedev painting

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Dear Sirs,

Sneddon syndrome is a non-inflammatory thrombotic arteriopathy characterized by the combination of livedo racemosa generalisata (Fig. 1a) and cerebrovascular disease [1, 2]. Livedo racemosa is defined by a striking violaceous netlike patterning of the skin similar to livedo reticularis, from which it differs by its location (more generalized and widespread, found not only on the limbs but also on the trunks and buttocks) and its shape (irregular, broken, and circular segments) [3].

As stated by Stenager [4], a very important part of the neurological examination is the ability to observe, not unique to neurology but a skill needed in other professions too of describing and interpreting art, including portraits.

I would like to draw your attention to the drawing *Artist's model* (1937) by Vladímir Lébedev (Fig. 1b). In this portrait of a young naked woman, careful observation can recognise livedo racemosa involving thighs, forearms, and left elbow and arm; note that skin violaceous netlike patterning is particularly visible on the anterior surface of the left thigh. Livedo racemosa generalisata, as reported in the patient of Fig. 1a, usually precedes the neurologic disorder in Sneddon syndrome [5].

The name of the Russian Soviet artist Vladímir Lébedev (1891–1967) is world-renowned mainly in connection with his outstanding work in the genre of illustrated children's books [6]. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the artist's painterly talent blossomed. In this period, he created his best painted portraits and still life pictures, and numerous

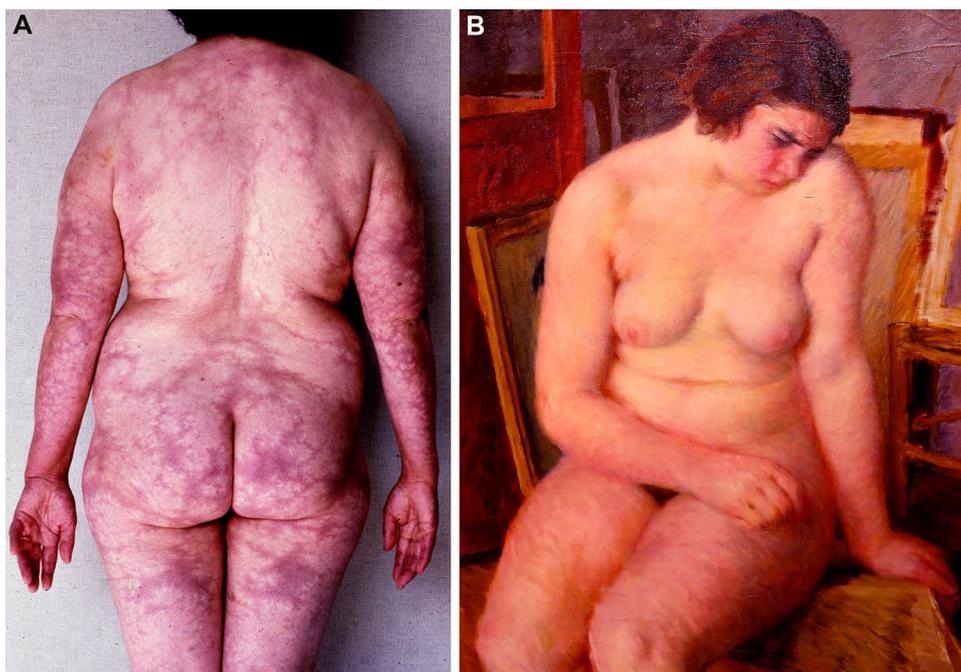
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**Fig. 1 a** Livedo racemosa generalisata in a 44-year-old woman suffering from Sneddon syndrome, who is case 2 in the paper by Rebollo et al. [1]. In short, at age 16 years, she developed diffuse and progressive livedo racemosa, which as of age 35 years was followed by repetitive strokes, epileptic seizures, and cognitive decline. **b** *Artist model*, by Vladímir Lébedev (Oil on canvas; original 76.8×60 cm). Photo taken by the author. Note the presence of livedo racemosa generalisata (see text). Reproduced with kind permission from the State Russian Museum (Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation)



drawings of nude models. Characteristic of the artist at this time was an appeal to the traditions of French impressionism; principles of free painterly drawing developed in his work.

### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflicts of interest** All the authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Ethical standard** This study was performed in accordance with ethical standards.

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