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Histoid : A Rare Mucosal Involvement

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Histoid Hansen is a type of multibacillary leprosy. It is present among young adult (average age between 20 to 40 yrs.) with male preponderance. In histoid Hansen, bacillary load is high and generally come into the lepromatous leprosy spectrum. Clinically patient present as shiny papules and nodules on the relatively normal skin. Histoid Hansen with mucosal involvement is extremely rare. We hereby report the case of histoid Hansen with hard palate involvement.

Case report

A 26-year-old female labourer living in Dharmshala originally from Bihar visited to the Outpatient Department (OPD) of dermatology at Zonal Hospital Dharmshala. The patient had multiple ichthyotic patches on both lower limbs and upper limbs. Multiple shiny papules and nodules on the dorsum of the both forearm, face, back and lower limb. (figure1) Mucosa of lips, hard palate and soft palate are involved (figure 2). On examining the oral cavity, mass of 2x 2 cm present on hard palate and small part of soft palate. Slit skin smear taken from both ear lobules and from the nodule on the forehead. Mucosal biopsy of the nodule showed picture consistent with lepromatous leprosy. On local examination, ulnar nerve of both arm were moderately thickened, common peroneal nerve of left side was mild thickened. There are hypo aesthetic patch present on left lower limb tested with microfilament. General and systemic examination was in normal range.

Discussion

First reported case of histoid Hansen is back in 1963 by Wade. The name histoid is due to histological resemblance to nodules which has spindle shaped cells as of dermatofibroma. In modern era of MDT histoid leprosy is rare or de novo. As very high bacteriological and morphological index in histoid leprosy can be due to focal lack of immunity. The mucosal histoid leprosy clinically similar to various granulomatous lesions of tuberculosis, secondary syphilis, papilloma and most importantly malignancy of oral cavity in elderly person. Management of this condition is strict adherence to MDT regimens with regular follow up.

Conclusion

The rare mucosal variant of oral cavity serve as source of new infection and threat to our elimination program. It is indispensable to look for new cases of histoid leprosy and treat them as early as possible to make the program successful.



Figure1



figure2

