



ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

## MASSIVE GENITAL LYMPHEDEMA- ELEPHANTIASIS AS A LATE COMPLICATION OF HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA

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**Background:** Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic inflammatory condition with a progressive course, which leads to tissue damage, high-grade systemic inflammation and related complications. Chronic inflammation and scarring may cause profound alterations of loco-regional lymphatic drainage, resulting in inflammatory lymphagiectasia and secondary lymphedema. Lymphedema is a rare and poorly described, long-term complication of hidradenitis, with only 27 cases reported so far in the literature.

**Observations:** we report the case of a 67-years old man with chronic, severe hidradenitis suppurativa, of 7-year duration, presenting with extensive Hurley III-disease, massive penile and scrotal deformities-elephantiasis and verrucous lymphostasis. Reactive hypergammaglobulinemia, chronic renal insufficiency and anaemia further complicated the patient's health status. Systemic treatment with acitretin and broad-spectrum antibiotics (ertapenem, cotrimoxazole) resulted in partial improvement of inflammatory lesions. Diagnostic work-up included ecographic and magnetic resonance imaging of the pelvic and anogenital regions. Indocyanine-green fluorescence lymphography is a useful functional imaging technique for the study of lymphostasis, confirming high-grade perturbations of the lymphatic system in this case.

**Key-messages:** anogenital lymphedema is a major complication of severe, long-standing hidradenitis suppurativa, requiring imaging and functional studies as well as interdisciplinary care. Secondary lymphedema further aggravates the overall disease burden of severe, chronic hidradenitis, with profound patient's disability, pain and psychosocial morbidity. As a locus of minoris resistentiae lymphedema is associated with an increased risk of soft-tissue superinfection and malignancy, requiring careful clinical and surgical management.

