AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

A CASE OF GRANULOMA ANNULARE PRECEDING CICATRICIAL PEMPHIGOID

K Cleminson [1] - P Green [1]

Dalhousie University, Department Of Dermatology, Halifax, Canada [1]

Background: Granuloma annulare is a benign, self-limiting disease frequently presenting as a delayed-type hypersensitivity to an unknown antigen. Cicatricial pemphigoid is an autoimmune, blistering disease with predominant mucosal involvement. Both diseases have been described as paraneoplastic reactions to solid organ tumors.

Observation: We present a case of a 73-year-old male who developed a widespread, dark pink, morbiliform eruption two months following resection of a lung carcinoma. Generalized granuloma annulare was diagnosed based on two separate skin biopsies a few months apart. At follow-up three months later, he presented with ongoing generalized granuloma annulare in addition to an overlying new eruption. He had developed diffuse, pruritic widespread blistering disease overlying the granuloma annulare. This new eruption was progressively worsening and he also had new conjunctivitis and discharge from the right eye. Skin biopsies and direct immunofluorescence at this time diagnosed cicatricial pemphigoid with background granuloma annulare. Prednisone was started as initial treatment and urgent referral to ophthalmology identified bilateral cicatrisation and trichiasis of the eyes, worse on the right side. Despite high dose prednisone ocular disease progressed and laryngeal symptoms began. Treatments with IVIg and dapsone were then started. Sadly, prior to follow-up on these treatments the patient was admitted to hospital with cardiac disease and passed away.

Key Message: Both granuloma annulare and cicatricial pemphigoid, specifically anti-epiligrin cicatricial pemphigoid, have individually been shown to present as paraneoplastic reactions. Granuloma annulare is not known to precede overlying development of cicatricial pemphigoid following neoplasms and to our knowledge there have not been similar cases reported.