



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

A CASE OF PEMPHIGUS VEGETANS PRESENTING WITH HOARSENESS OF VOICE

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Background: Pemphigus vegetans is a rare clinical variant of pemphigus vulgaris. It is characterised by flaccid blisters, erosions, vegetative proliferations and involvement of mucous membranes in particular the oral cavity. Laryngeal involvement has been infrequently reported and poorly characterised.

Observation: We report a case of pemphigus vegetans in an 89-year-old Chinese gentlemen who presented with a 2-week history of hoarseness of voice. On examination, there were extensive haemorrhagic ulcers and erosions over the hard and soft palate, buccal mucosa, upper and lower lips. These were accompanied by multiple vegetative plaques scattered over his scrotum and perineum. Nasoendoscopy examination revealed features of vocal cord webbing and evidence of chronic inflammatory mucosal disease. Antibodies to desmoglein 3 was positive and histological examination was consistent with pemphigus vegetans.

Key message: Laryngeal involvement in pemphigus vegetans have been poorly characterised in the literature. Therefore, it may not be immediately intuitive for physicians to associate the condition with patients presenting with symptoms such as hoarseness of voice. This unique presentation of pemphigus illustrated in our case is a reminder to consider the diverse presentations of this condition. In addition, it is important to rule out differential diagnosis such as extra-intestinal manifestations of Crohn's disease, recurrent aphthous stomatitis, pyostomatitis vegetans, mucous membrane pemphigoid and HSV gingivostomatitis. Our case also emphasises the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork and nasoendoscopy evaluation in the right clinical context.

