



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

CASE REPORT: PEMPHIGUS VEGETANS IN PREGNANCY

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Pemphigus vegetans is a rare clinical variant of pemphigus vulgaris characterized by vegetating plaques in the skin folds and comprises up to 5% of all pemphigus cases. Two clinical subtypes have been described; the Neumann type usually begins with bullae, has a poor response to therapy and a poor prognosis, similar to pemphigus vulgaris, whereas the Hallopeau type usually begins with grouped pustules and has an excellent response to therapy with many patients going into prolonged remission. However, pemphigus vegetans is a rare disease in pregnant women.

We report the case of a 32-year-old woman who was diagnosed with pemphigus vegetans during 30-week pregnancy. On examination, multiple grayish, moist, vegetating papules and plaques of varying sizes were present on the labia majora, and groins. Some plaques had pustules at the edge of lesion. She had some erosions in her oral mucosa. There were no blisters elsewhere on the body. Venereal disease research laboratory (VDRL) test, Treponema pallidum hemagglutination (TPHA), HIV spot test, and serum IgM for herpes simplex virus were done and all of them were negative. Skin biopsy shows acanthosis and intraepidermal eosinophilic microabscesses. An intraepidermal cleft with acantholytic cells was noted. Dermis showed an intense inflammatory infiltrate predominantly comprising eosinophils. Direct immunofluorescence showing deposits in the intercellular spaces in the epidermis.

A careful analysis of the clinical and laboratory findings enabled us to reach a diagnosis and successfully treat the patient.

