



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

DO ORO-PHARYNGEAL SYMPTOMS CORRELATE WITH ENDOSCOPIC FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH PEMPHIGUS VULGARIS?

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Introduction: Pemphigus vulgaris is a rare immunobullous disorder, affecting the skin and mucosal membranes. Many of the mucosal manifestations of the disease are inaccessible to the dermatologist and it is difficult to ascertain whether oro-pharyngeal symptoms are due to disease activity unless endoscopy is performed.

Objective: We wanted to see whether symptoms predict endoscopic findings.

Materials and Methods: We reviewed 312 charts of patients with histopathologically-confirmed pemphigus vulgaris for this observational, single-centre retrospective study. The primary endpoint was whether endoscopic findings in the nose, oral cavity, larynx or pharynx correlate with oro-pharyngeal symptoms.

Results: Sixty percent of patients (192/312) had at least one oro-pharyngeal symptom. These symptoms showed statistically significant correlation with endoscopic findings of pemphigus vulgaris: oral ($p = 0.0003$), laryngeal ($p = 0.0009$), pharyngeal ($p=0.0013$) and nasal ($p=0.015$). Disease severity and older age at diagnosis were also associated with endoscopic findings. Fifteen patients (or 5%) had positive endoscopic findings without symptoms and three patients had symptoms due to endoscopically-confirmed candidiasis or CMV infection.

Conclusions: In the majority of patients with pemphigus vulgaris, oro-pharyngeal symptoms reflected disease activity. However, a small proportion had findings without experiencing symptoms and some experienced symptoms due to an infection (candidiasis or CMV).

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