



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

GROVER'S DISEASE: ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO DAPSONE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

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Background: Grover's disease (GD) also known as "transient acantholytic dermatosis" is an uncommon entity that mainly affects adults around the fifth decade or older. The aetiology is unknown, but reports show a correlation with increased sweating and heat, ionising radiation, solid organ transplantation, end-stage renal disease and certain immunomodulators. The incidence is not known accurately, but a study in Switzerland reported GD in 24 out of more than 30,000 skin biopsies. The most frequent histopathological subtype is pemphigus vulgaris-like. High-potency topical corticosteroids used to be the starting therapy.

Observation: A 38-year-old male presents to dermatology service with a two-week history of papular and papulo-vesicular lesions on the face, trunk, upper and lower extremities that caused intense pruritus. Skin lesions had a nummular appearance and a zosteriform pattern. A skin biopsy was performed, suspecting GD. On histopathology, suprabasal acantholysis with dyskeratotic cells and spongiosis were observed. After confirming the diagnosis, treatment with dapsone was initiated because of lesions extension. The patient had a total response to the treatment after one week. Nevertheless, therapy was continued for up to 2 months. The patient remains free of recurrence at 6 months of follow-up.

Key message: This case highlights the importance of considering other treatments in the management of GD. There are few reports with response to dapsone, but it is something that should be considered in extended presentations.

