



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

HERPETIC SUPERINFECTION AND PEMPHIGUS

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Background: Pemphigus is a group of autoimmune bullous dermatoses with various forms. Several studies have investigated its association with viral infections, mainly herpes because of its frequency, its clinical and prognostic impact.

Objective: To analyse clinical and epidemiological characteristics of pemphigus patients with herpetic superinfection, and to approximate its actual rate.

Materials and Methods: We conducted a prospective study over 5 years (between 2013 and 2018), on pemphigus patients with herpes superinfection, hospitalized in the dermatology department of the University Hospital Hassan II of Fez. Data were entered on Excel and analyzed by using the statistical software package SPSS 17.0.

Results: Patients presented with herpes superinfection were 18, with 13 women and 5 men, and an average age of 56 years. 3 patients were of rural origin and 12 were of low socioeconomic level. 5 patients presented superficial pemphigus and 13 a pemphigus vulgaris. Patients presented with skin lesions in 82% of cases, and mucosal involvement in 62% of cases, with NIKOLSKI sign positive in all cases. Lesions were erosive in 85% patients, vesicular in 30% of cases and bullous in 10% of cases. 6 patients were on steroids alone, while 4 were on Azathioprine associated with corticosteroids, 6 on Rituximab and 2 on disulfone. The diagnosis was confirmed by Tzanccytodiagnosis in all cases. Lymphopenia was noted in 27% of cases. All patients were treated with Aciclovir IV at a dose of 10 mg / kg / 8h for 5 days, with rapid healing in 12 cases and recurrence in 10 cases requiring new courses of Aciclovir.

Conclusions: Given the significant association between herpetic superinfection and pemphigus, any unexplained skin worsening should lead to look for signs of herpetic superinfection, which will require the use of antiviral treatment before concluding to a therapeutic failure.

