



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

REPORT OF TWO CASES OF BULLOUS PEMPHIGOID RESTRICTED TO PREVIOUSLY RADIATED AREA DUE TO BREAST CANCER

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Background: Radiation therapy (RT) has been associated with the onset of localized bullous pemphigoid (BP) since the 1980s. Even so, it is still considered a rare complication of RT. These reports consist mainly of BP after breast cancer radiation treatment. The mechanism as why radiation may cause this reaction is still not clear, but hormonal therapy and alterations of the basal membrane have been suggested as possible causes.

Observation: We present a series of 2 cases of patients who presented to the dermatology clinic at Sunnybrook Hospital with bullous pemphigoid localized on the previously radiated breast after breast cancer treatment. Both cases were confirmed by histology, direct and indirect immunofluorescence.

Key message: BP should be considered as a rare complication of RT. Fortunately, remission can be successfully achieved without aggressive immunosuppression.

