

AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

SPECTRUM OF AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES AND THEIR ORAL MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SUDAN: A 16-YEAR HOSPITAL-BASED STUDY.

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Introduction: Autoimmune bullous diseases (AIBDs) are a group of conditions that result from autoantibodies targeting different skin and mucosal adhesion molecules. They have a wide range of presentation that varies among populations; however, in the Sudan, clinicoepidemiological information about AIBDs was lacking.

Objective: We aimed to investigate the whole spectrum of AIBDs and their oral manifestations in the Sudan, and to associate oral lesions with the type of AIBD.

Materials and Methods: A descriptive, analytical study was carried out. Records of all patients who were admitted to Khartoum Dermatological and Venereal Diseases Teaching Hospital with the diagnosis of AIBDs during the period from 2001 to 2016 were reviewed. Study was ethically approved by the Ministry of Health.

Results: A total of 585 patients were included in the study, with a male to female ratio of 1:1.6 and mean age of 45±22 years. Pemphigus vulgaris was the most common AIBD (50.9%) followed by bullous pemphigoid (28.2%), linear IgA disease/ chronic bullous disease of childhood (8.4%) and pemphigus foliaceus (8.2%). The oral mucosal involvement was found to be significantly associated with the type of AIBD and this association is found to be strong, according to Cramer's V test results, $\chi^2(3, N=554)=224.6$, $p<0.001$, $V=0.64$. Oral involvement was found in 84.4% of patients with pemphigus vulgaris. In contrast, oral mucosa was involved in only 8.3%, 23.2% and 29.8% of patients with bullous pemphigoid, pemphigus foliaceus and linear IgA disease/ chronic bullous disease of childhood, respectively. When both skin and oral mucosa were involved, 60.7% of the cases presented firstly with oral lesions.

Conclusions: AIBDs are not infrequent in the Sudan. Pemphigus vulgaris, bullous pemphigoid, linear IgA disease/ chronic bullous disease of childhood and pemphigus foliaceus are the most common AIBDs in the Sudan. Oral mucosal involvement is



associated with type of AIBD.

