



AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

## DERMATOMYOSITIS AS MANIFESTATION OF SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

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**Background:** Dermatomyositis is a rare autoimmune disease that presents as inflammatory myopathy with particular cutaneous manifestations.

**Observation:** A 45-year-old male attends with disseminated dermatosis in all body segments, affecting the periorbital region, anterior thorax, abdomen in the hypogastrium, suprapubic region, back of the hands and lateral right thigh, constituted by multiple large erythematous-violaceous patches, irregular shape with ill-defined edges. Areas of poikiloderma were found on the surface of some patches. It is accompanied by intense itching. Denies previous treatment. It has three months of evolution.

To the rest of the interrogation, he refers that he has presented involuntary weight loss, myalgia and weakness. He is admitted in the hospital. A skin and striated muscle biopsy was taken with findings compatible with dermatomyositis, as well as electromyography and laboratory studies with elevated muscle enzymes.

Chest radiography was performed, in which a radiopacity was found in the right lung, for which bronchoscopy was performed in which an exophytic tumour was found. Samples of the tumour were taken, subsequently a histopathological study compatible with small cell lung carcinoma was performed.

A diagnosis of paraneoplastic dermatomyositis was made secondary to small cell lung carcinoma. Dermatoses showed improvement with topical calcineurin inhibitors and with chemotherapy.

**Keypoints:** Dermatomyositis is a disease that presents with a bimodal age distribution. In patients diagnosed with non-juvenile dermatomyositis, it is important to rule out underlying paraneoplastic processes through appropriate paraclinical studies for the patient's age and gender.

