



AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

## LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS TUMIDUS: A CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY.

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**Introduction:** Lupus erythematosus tumidus (LET) is form of cutaneous lupus erythematosus underdiagnosed in our population, that may occur prior to or concomitantly with the diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

**Objective:** To describe, in patients with diagnosis of LET, characteristics such as age, sex, phototype, location of lesions and predominant clinical forms, nonspecific skin manifestations. To identify the association with SLE or other connective tissue diseases and record treatments performed and responses.

**Materials and methods:** We analyzed the clinical histories of Latin Americans patients between the ages of 16 and 65 years old, that consulted our service, between 2003 and 2017.

**Results:** 14 patients met the inclusion criteria. The mean age was 43 years, 10 patients were women, the most frequent skin phototype, according to the Fitzpatrick scale, was number III. 57% of patients showed urticarial-like form and half presented photosensitivity. The annular form was exhibited by 21% of the patients, 5 (36%) presented lesions in the lower limbs, and 14% eyelids edema. At the beginning of the study, 2 patients had a previous diagnosis of SLE, upon completion of the study 50% of patients met SLICC criteria for SLE. Nonspecific manifestations were arthritis, diffuse alopecia and livedo reticularis. The treatment with antimalarials was the most used and the one to have the best response.

**Conclusions:** Epidemiological studies on LET are scarce in Latin America. In this work we analyze the largest group of patients reported so far in our country. Most of the results agree with other series. An outstanding difference was the frequent association with SLE using the SLICC classification criteria. The observations lead us to affirm, as do other authors, the importance of recognizing lupus tumidus as a well characterized entity, improving its diagnostic criteria and establishing a close relationship with SLE, undocumented until now.

