



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

## **DEROOFING AS A SURGICAL TECHNIQUE FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA: CASE REPORT**

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**Background:** Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic recurrent debilitating disease. Treatment is challenging and excisional surgery remains one of the mainstay options. Deroofing is a tissue saving technique allowing the removal of the roof of a deep seated-lesion.

**Observation:** A 33 year-old patient with no relevant medical history consulted our clinic for recurrent painful oozing purulent lesions of the axillae for over 3 years. The dermatological examination of the axillary skin showed tender subcutaneous nodules, multiples bridged scars and sinus tracts. The diagnosis of hidradenitis suppurativa was suspected. The histopathological examination was in favor of the diagnosis. The staging of the severity of the disease according to Hurley found a stage 2. A surgical treatment using the deroofing technique was decided. The procedure was undertaken under local anesthesia. The exploration of the extent of each lesion (abscess, cyst, sinus tract) located on the right axilla was made using a probe. The roof of the lesion was then electrosurgically removed. The created defects were left open for healing secondarily.

**Key message:** Hidradenitis suppurativa usually presents after puberty with deep abscesses and chronic, draining sinus tracts involving the apocrin-bearing areas of the body. It has major psychosocial repercussions on patients. Early surgical treatment is recommended to prevent irreversible mutilating scars. Surgical deroofing is an optimal therapy that may be used on all lesions in an anatomic area. The roof of each abscess, nodule, and sinus tract is removed, and all communicating cavities are exposed with scissors, electrosurgery as in our reported case, or a CO2 laser. Several studies show the effectiveness of this technique and highlight a low recurrence rate. It is a safe technique and it is usually performed under local anesthesia.

