DERMATOPATHOLOGY

ACQUIRED EPIDERMODYSPLASIA VERRUCIFORMIS IN RENAL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS: 2 CASES FORTUITOUSLY DISCOVERED ON HISTOLOGY

S Gara [1] - M Jones [1] - T Bacha [1] - C Chouk [1] - S Rammeh [2] - F Zeglaoui [1]

Charles Nicolle Hospital, Dermatology, Tunis, Tunisia [1] - Charles Nicolle Hospital, Pathology, Tunis, Tunisia [2]

Background: Epidermodysplasia verruciformis (EV) is a rare genodermatosis characterized by abnormal susceptibility to infection with human papilloma virus and an increased risk of squamous cell carcinoma. Its etiopathogenesis is multifactorial involving viral, genetic and environmental factors. Recent publications suggest the potential role of specific immune deficiency with the discovery of acquired forms of EV in immunocompromised hosts.
We report herein two cases of acquired EV in two kidney transplant patients discovered on histology.

Observation 1: A 64-year-old man, with no family history of inherited genodermatosis, who underwent a kidney transplant, was referred to our department for purpuric lesions of the arms with a suspicion of Kaposi sarcoma. On dermatological examination, he had well-defined purpuric macules of the forearms. Histological analysis showed no signs of vascular proliferation but revealed foci of keratinocytes of increased size with abundant basophilic cytoplasm containing variably-sized keratohyaline granules, without atypia or architectural disorganization. The clinical and histological features were consistent with the diagnosis of EV.
Observation 2: A 30-year-old male patient with a four-year-old kidney transplant and a history of a drug reaction to amphotericin B confirmed on histology, presented with a reappearance of the cutaneous eruption. Histological analysis showed no signs of drug reaction but revealed superficial keratinocytes with enlarged nuclei and bluish cytoplasm consistent with the diagnosis of EV. There was no history of affected relatives.

Key message: Acquired EV is a recent and rare entity, occurring in compromised cell-mediated immunity conditions such as HIV infection or organ transplantation. According to literature, the presentation of acquired EV is similar to inherited forms. In our cases, the clinical picture was unusual with a fortuitous histological discovery. Transplanted patients are at risk of developing cutaneous cancers. The impact of acquired EV on this risk is still unknown.