



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

## ERYTHRODERMA, A LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE

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Background: Psoriatic erythroderma, also called "exfoliative" is one of the worst forms of psoriasis. In particular: the skin appears to burn, most (or whole) body skin turns into bright red, the body cannot maintain normal temperature, the heart accelerates the beating, patients feel a strong itching and strong pain. Erythroderma is a medical emergency and the person should be hospitalized as soon as possible because his/her life may be in danger. Fortunately, the disease is one of the least common forms of psoriasis. According to some evaluations, only 3% of people with psoriasis can be affected by psoriatic erythroderma.

Observation: V. P., a 70-year-old patient was admitted to dermatology clinic with dg. Pancytopenia from methotrexate in the field of psoriatic erythroderma. WBC  $0.2 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$ ; RBC  $3.16 \times 10^6/\mu\text{L}$ ; HGB 9.5g/dl; HCT 28.8%; MCV 91.1fl; MCHC 30.1g/dl; MCH29.8pg, PLT  $77 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$ . The patient had localized pathological elements in the scalp, face, mouth, body, extremities. In the scalp there were squamosal elements, while in the face and lip had elements crustose. In the mouth there were erosive elements in tongue, gingiva, and palatium. The tongue was dressed in white coats, erythematous conjunctivitis and small eyelid crowns. There was linear eruption in the back, in the radius of the thorax, in the gluteal region. In the scrotum there was erythematous skin with erosion on seropurulent secretions. The patient was treated with Neupogen 300mg, fresh plasma, platelet counts, sol. Metronidazole 500mg x3; with antibiotic therapy (levofloxacin; Cefepime) Metronidazole etc. The condition of the patient became worse and ended up with death because of a cardio-respiratory arrest.

Key message: Psoriasis vulgaris, although not a life-threatening disease, may be complicated in psoriatic arthritis, that may put life in danger and not rarely leads to death.

