



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

METASTATIC CROHN'S DISEASE: A CLINICO-HISTOLOGICAL APPRAISAL FROM A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE IN INDIA

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Background: Crohn's disease (CD) is an uncommon entity in Indians compared to western population. Cutaneous involvement in CD is even rarer.

Aim: The present study aims to analyze the clinico-histological features of cutaneous CD in the context of Indian population in a tertiary care centre of north India.

Method: A retrospective review of patients with cutaneous CD who were referred to our dermatology clinic from 2014 to July 2018 was performed. Data on presenting cutaneous signs, associated gastrointestinal (GI) findings, histological features and response to treatment was collected.

Results: Nine patients (3 males & 6 females) with a mean age of 30.25 years (range 15-51 years) were identified. All females had vulval involvement in the form of oedema (80%), ulceration (60%) and fistula (20%). Among the 3 males, 2 had swelling and ulceration of perianal, perineal and scrotal regions, while the third patient presented with leg ulcer. Intestinal CD was already diagnosed in four patients (44.4%) at cutaneous presentation, while it was diagnosed subsequently in 3 (33.3%) cases. Two (22.2%) patients had no evidence of GI involvement. Histology revealed non necrotizing granulomatous inflammation in the dermis in 6 patients (66.7%), while ill formed granuloma was seen in 3 (33.3%). Additional histological features included panniculitis (40%), vasculitis (33.3%), eosinophilic infiltrate (44.4%) and plasma cell infiltrate (33.3%). The patients were treated with various combinations of prednisolone, metronidazole, minocycline, azathioprine and adalimumab with partial and temporary relief.

Conclusion: Cutaneous CD is rare disease and shows a wide spectrum of presentation. Although anogenital involvement is most common, other sites may also be involved. Histology reveals non necrotizing granulomas in the dermis. The diagnosis may be extremely challenging as GI involvement may not be present at diagnosis in a significant





proportion of cases, and thus a high index of suspicion is imperative.

