DERMATOPATHOLOGY

PALISADED NEUTROPHILIC GRANULOMATOUS DERMATITIS ASSOCIATED WITH BEHçET'S DISEASE

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Background: Palisaded neutrophilic granulomatous dermatitis (PNGD) is a reactive granulomatous dermatitis that is triggered in the setting of a systemic disorder, such as connective tissue diseases, malignancy, vasculitis, medications and infections. The etiology is unknown. Clinically it's polymorphic with a symmetrical and acral distribution, and coincides with exacerbations of the underlying disease. Histology shows a spectrum that goes from leukocytoclastic vasculitis and neutrophilic dermal infiltrate in early stage, to palisading granuloma with collagen degeneration in established lesions, or even an overlap of these findings. Treatment will be directed to the signs and symptoms of the underlying disease.

Observation: A 62-year-old woman, with episodes of recurrent and painful oral ulcers, bilateral ocular hyperemia, and asymptomatic erythematous nodules in lower extremities associated with arthralgia over the last 6 years. In addition, painful erythematous papules on the hands and feet in the last month. Ophthalmologic evaluation showed bilateral scleritis and physical examination disclosed oral ulcers, erythematous-violet nodules in the lower limbs (erythema nodosum-like) and symmetrical erythematous papules on the hands and feet. Screening tests for autoimmune diseases, rheumatoid factor and VDRL were negative. Complete blood count, metabolic panel, chest x-ray, and sacroiliac joint magnetic resonance imaging were normal. There were no genital ulcers and pathergy test was negative. The diagnosis of Behçet's disease was established based on the criteria of the International Study Group of Behcet's Disease. A previous biopsy of an erythematous papule on the right foot compatible with annular granuloma and a new biopsy of an erythematous papule on the left hallux showing palisading granuloma, neutrophilic infiltrate, dermal collagen degeneration and some neutrophilic vasculitis foci, characterized PNGD. Systemic treatment was initiated with prednisone and methotrexate with improvement, however, recurrence months after corticoid suspension.

Key message: To our knowledge, this is the second reported case of PNGD associated with Behcet's disease.