DERMATOPATHOLOGY

ROTHMANN-MAKAI SYNDROME: CASE REPORT

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Background: panniculitis are a heterogeneous group of different inflammatory diseases. Clinically, are characterized by nodules or plaques due to inflammation of the subcutaneous adipose tissue. The diagnosis is based in histopathological findings, where the location and type of predominant cell of the inflammatory infiltrate and the presence or absence of vasculitis are fundamental, classifying in two major groups: septal or lobular panniculitis. Rothmann-Makai syndrome or subcutaneous lipogranulomatosis is an uncommon variant without systemic/visceral component of Weber-Christian disease. Most cases are observed in children with not painful subcutaneous nodules in extremities and trunk that improve spontaneously in one year.

Observation: 68-year old female patient with an unremarkable past medical history, was referred from rheumatology department because of the development of intermittent episodes of painful subcutaneous lesions since two years ago. At a physical examination she presented several nodular lesions with erythematous surface in both legs. A skin biopsy performed showed a lobular granulomatous panniculitis without vasculitis compatible with Rothmann-Makai syndrome. During follow-up, autoimmune pathology is discarded, however, given a positive quantiferon, a latent tuberculosis infection is diagnosed. Finally, the patient evolves with similar episodes that respond favourably to anti-inflammatories.

Key message: panniculitis represent a diagnostic challenge for clinicians and pathologists and it might be the initial manifestation of different autoimmune diseases. Early diagnosis is essential in order to guide treatment and improve the prognosis of these patients. Rothmann-Makai syndrome is a very unusual subtype of panniculitis, with few cases in adults reported in the literature.