



GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

DERCUM'S DISEASE: A RARE AND UNDERDIAGNOSED DISEASE

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Background: Dercum's disease or adiposis dolorosa is a rare entity, characterized by overweight or obesity and emergence of multiple painful lipomas. It mainly affects women in the postmenopausal period and is five to thirty times more frequent in females. Its cause remains unknown and treatment has been a challenge due to the rarity of this condition. The diagnosis is clinical and treatment aims to relieve pain and correct disfigurement. Liposuction and lipectomy are described as effective in reducing symptoms.

Observation: The present report provides a presentation of a typical case of Dercum's disease with a good response to the surgical treatment, of a 76-year-old female, menopausal, obese, patient with painful nodules on the back and upper limbs for approximately twenty years. On physical examination, she presented skin-colored subcutaneous nodules all over the upper limbs and on the back. Surgical removal of the painful nodules and anatomopathological examination were performed, which confirmed the diagnosis of lipomas. After the surgical procedure, the patient had improvement in the pain and remains in outpatient follow-up, with no signs of recurrence in seven months of follow-up.

Key Message: Dercum's disease is a rare entity, and the different treatment strategies that exist are based on case reports, which justifies the importance of this report, that had satisfactory control of symptoms with lipectomy. There is a need to become familiar with this entity so that it is not an underdiagnosed condition anymore.

Keywords: Adiposis dolorosa; Lipectomy; Obesity

