

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

A FATAL EVOLUTION CASE OF LUCIO'S PHENOMENON

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Background: We report a case of borderline lepromatous leprosy from Brazil, which developed to a fatal Lucio's phenomenon 2 weeks after the first multidrug therapy dose for multibacillary leprosy had been administered. The patient was experiencing fever, diffuse erythema and infiltration of the skin. The patient also presented a clinical condition of microcytic and hypochromic anemia with thrombocytosis and moderate anisocytosis. In 24 hours, it progressed to large necrotic and ulcerative lesions leading to multiple organ dysfunction and ultimately death. The histopathological evaluation associated with the clinical symptoms was essential for the diagnosis; however, the late diagnosis was not effective to prevent the disease progression.

Observation: Lucio's phenomenon is a rare event that may reach severe proportions and cause death by disseminated intravascular coagulation and/or septicemia. Of the few cases reported worldwide, some are from Brazil. This is another confirmed case in our country that, unfortunately, had an unfavorable outcome.

Key message: This report highlights the rare nature of this disease and how similar its symptoms are to some manifestations of connective tissue diseases. Lucio's phenomenon may not be easily recognized, mainly in non-endemic countries, which leads to confusing diagnosis and too much time spent trying to find the appropriate treatment.