



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

CERVICAL FUNGAL MYCETOMA WITH BLACK GRAINS : A PEDIATRIC CASE

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Introduction: Mycetoma is defined as "any pathological process in the course of which exogenous fungal or actinomycotic etiological agents produce grains". They perform polyfistulised inflammatory pseudotumors, of chronic evolution. They preferentially affect adult men in the 20-40 age group. Extrapodal localizations remain rare as well as pediatric forms. We report a case of cervico-submandibular fungal mycetoma in a child of rural origin.

Observation: A 13-year-old boy from a rural area in Senegal consulted for a polyfistulised painful cervical swelling that had been evolving for 6 years. No trauma preceding the swelling was found. There was swelling of the firm, inflammatory, central crateriform sub-mandibular region, leaving pus containing black grains, with fistulas on the lateral side of the neck. There was also moderate laryngeal dyspnea and stunted growth retardation. We rule out tuberculosis. Histopathology had revealed a purulent inflammatory granuloma developed around blackish grains. Retroviral serology was negative. The cervical tomodesitometry showed invasion of the thyroid glands and the maxillary glands, larynx and soft tissues with involvement of the mandibular bone. Therapy with terbinafine was initiated. One month later, an emergency tracheotomy was performed because of a worsening of laryngeal dyspnea. The surgery was not indicated, terbinafine was continued. After a follow-up of one year, the evolution was marked by a death at home.

Discussion: One of the peculiarities of this observation is the occurrence of mycetoma at pediatric age. In West Africa, the incidence of mycetoma in children varies between 4.5 and 10% depending on the series. The other peculiarity lies in the cervicomandibular localization of the mycetoma, which remains exceptional. In a Senegalese series of 109 patients, only two cases had a cervical topography. The bad prognosis was linked to localization, the inaccessibility to surgical and ineffective antifungal treatment.

Conflict of interest: None

Key-words: cervical mycetoma

