



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

CONTINUOUS ERYTHEMA NODOSUM LEPROSUM REACTION IN CHILD

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Background: Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, representing a public health issue in some countries. The outbreak of cases in children and adolescents shows the active circulation of bacillus, with its continued transmission and the failure of the health system to control this disease.

Observation: A 12-years old underweight girl presented with recurrent erythematous nodule since 1 year ago. Patient is in 4th month MDT treatment. She has a history of dropped out from the treatment. Her father also suffered for the same disease. She often had a cough in the last 2 years. From dermatological state there were multiple erythematous nodules, some had been ruptured and became an ulcer. Nerve enlargement in right ulnar nerve and hypoesthesia in little finger. Bacterial index +2, morphological index 0. Histopathological examination showed borderline lepromatous leprosy type with erythema nodosum leprosum. Laboratory result revealed anemia, hypoalbumin, and hyperbilirubinemia. The patient got blood and albumin transfusion, methylprednisolone 24 mg single morning dose, tapered 4 mg every 5 days. After 15 days of treatment and after 2 months follow up patient showed an improvement of general state and there was no recurrent nodule.

Key message: Multibacillary leprosy quite rare in children but may occur in hyperendemic areas. The risk of acquiring the disease is greater among household contacts in relation to other types of contact. The continuous ENL in this patient may be due to concurrent illness or infection, irregular medication, and low nutritional status as an exacerbating factor. The main aims in the management of ENL are the control of infection, correction of general state, pain relief and prevention of further episodes. With the improvement of general state and control of infection, the recurrent episode of ENL can be eliminated.

