



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

## **ECTHYMA GANGRENOSUM IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: REPORT OF NINE CASES**

*Iyda El Faqyr<sup>(1)</sup> - Khalid Abi El Aala<sup>(2)</sup> - Nadia El Idriss Slitine<sup>(2)</sup> - Fadl Mrabih Rabou Maoulainine<sup>(2)</sup> - Aicha Bourrahouat<sup>(2)</sup> - Ghizlane Draï<sup>(2)</sup> - Nourddine Rada<sup>(2)</sup> - Mohamed Bouskraoui<sup>(2)</sup> - Mohamed Sbihi<sup>(2)</sup> - Said Amal<sup>(1)</sup> - Ouafa Hocar<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Mohamed Vi University Hospital, Dermatology, Marrakech, Morocco<sup>(1)</sup> - Mohamed Vi University Hospital, Pediatrics, Marrakech, Morocco<sup>(2)</sup>*

Background: Ecthyma gangrenosum (EG) is a cutaneous lesion classically associated with potentially fatal pseudomonal septicemia in immunocompromised patients. Other bacterial and fungal pathogens have also been implicated in EG.

Observation: We report nine cases of EG that occurred with 5 female patients and 4 male patients, aged between 5 days and 10 years. Four patients were apparently previously healthy at admission. Four patients had a degree of immunosuppression (cyclic neutropenia, retinoblastoma with neutropenia, chronic granulomatous disease, one case occurred in a suggestive context of immunodeficiency that we did not have time to identify due to the fatal evolution). One case of EG occurred in a premature neonate due to nosocomial infection. All patients presented at the emergency department in a febrile state. They all had a history of erythema that progressed to pustules and ulcerations surrounded by erythema, some of them covered by a necrotic crust. Four patients had the lesions in the perineal region, 2 on the face, 2 on the extremities and one on the trunk. The bacteriological study revealed *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in all cases. The nine patients received combination therapy. Six patients had favorable evolution, with resolution of the skin lesions, while three patients died secondary to sepsis. The immunological investigation for the apparently healthy children did not show immune deficiency.

Key message: EG is an aggressive cutaneous infection. Early recognition of EG plays an important role in providing appropriate empiric antibiotic treatment. Immunological evaluation is essential in all the patients.

