



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

ERYTHEMA NODOSUM LEPROSUM NECROTICANS MIMICKING LUCIO PHENOMENON

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Background: Erythema nodosum leprosum necroticans is an uncommon manifestation of type 2 leprosy reaction, encountered in lepromatous and borderline lepromatous cases of leprosy. Though it is usually seen during the course of treatment it may occur in previously untreated patients as well. In severe reactions, nodules tend to increase in size and ulcerate.

Observation: A 21-year-old with 28 weeks' pregnant lady was referred with multiple painful ulcerated skin lesions over the trunk, arms, thighs and gluteal area of 4 months' duration. History of recurrent nodular lesions, some of them undergoing ulceration were present since 1 years. She has history of irregular and dropped out from the treatment. On general physical examination, the patient was febrile stable and pallor. Multiple, tender, erythematous, nodules accompanied by necrosis were present in almost trunk, arms, thighs and gluteal. Peripheral nerves were thickened and tender. Sensations could not be examined because of generalized cutaneous tenderness. Bacterial index was +3 and morphological index was 3%. Hematological examination revealed leukocytosis, anemia and hypoalbumin. Histopathological examination showed lepromatous leprosy with erythema nodosum leprosum. At 5th day she was deliver and died 2 months later because of septic shock

Key message: Lucio's phenomena is characterized by the painful, and purpuric macules, particularly on the extremities, with necrotic center which finally develop a black eschar which heals and leave superficial atrophic scars. It's usually not associated fever, constitutional symptoms, visceral involvement or neuritis and characterized histopathologically by leucocytoclastic vasculitis. Presence of fever and constitutional symptoms help to separate erythema nodosum necroticans from Lucio's phenomenon.

