



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

## LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY IN A 15 YEAR OLD BRAZILIAN PATIENT: AN ALERT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS

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**Background:** Leprosy is a chronic infection caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* bacillus. It is a significant health problem in Brazil, with higher incidence in the northeastern region. The disease has two main poles regulated by the immune system. Multibacillary (MB) Lepromatous leprosy develops when cell-mediated immune response fails to avoid pathogen reproduction, making these patients the main source of infection. Paucibacillary (PB) Tuberculoid patients have a strong cellular response and are less associated with disease transmission. The World Organization Health classifies patients based on the number of lesions which determines the treatment: MB have more than 5 lesions and receive a longer drug scheme than PB patients (five or less lesions).

**Observation:** 15-year-old female Brazilian presented to the dermatology department with the chief complaint of one year evolution asymptomatic lesions on her lower limbs which have been previously treated as mycosis. Dermatological evaluation noticed asymptomatic violaceous nodules on her inferior members. The first diagnosis hypothesis was erythema nodosum and panniculitis. Biopsy revealed intense lymphohistiocytic infiltrate with numerous Virchow cells. Ziehl-Neelsen stain identified various isolated and grouped bacillus (globi). At posterior examination, patient didn't manifest loss of sensibility neither peripheral nerves alteration. She was referred to a specialized center to initiate multidrug therapy and investigate contacts.

**Key Message:** Brazil is the second country with the highest prevalence of leprosy. The disease has an efficient treatment but the diagnosis can be a challenge for general practitioners and specialists hence the signs and symptoms can mimic several other conditions. It is crucial to be familiar with the plurality of manifestations to consider Leprosy between the possible diagnosis and diminish the transmission cycle. This case represents an important public health issue as it was detected a MB patient with 15-years-old. It can be considered a sentinel event for contingency actions.

