



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

## LUCIO PHENOMENON IN A PATIENT FROM A LEPROSY NON-ENDEMIC AREA: AN INDICATION OF EXPANDING ENEMY?

*Glaucia Pereira Christo Antonioli<sup>(1)</sup> - Maria Angela Bianconcini Trindade<sup>(2)</sup> - Neusa Sakai Valente<sup>(3)</sup> - Thais Sabato Romano Di Gioia<sup>(4)</sup> - Gil Bernard<sup>(5)</sup> - Carlos Roberto Belo Pereira<sup>(6)</sup> - Denise Riguele Chiquito Fernandes<sup>(1)</sup> - Rafaela De Castro Silva<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Policlínica Geral Do Rio De Janeiro, Department Of Dermatology, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil<sup>(1)</sup> - University Of São Paulo ( Usp ), Department Of Dermatology, São Paulo, Brazil<sup>(2)</sup> - University Of São Paulo ( Usp ), Department Of Pathology, São Paulo, Brazil<sup>(3)</sup> - University Of São Paulo ( Usp ), Department Of Microbiology, São Paulo, Brazil<sup>(4)</sup> - University Of São Paulo ( Usp ), Department Of Dermatology, São Paulo, Brazil<sup>(5)</sup> - Quarteirão Da Saúde Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, Diadema, Brazil<sup>(6)</sup>*

**Background:** The Lucio's Phenomenon (LP) is characterized by erythematous-purpuric, painful and ulcerated macular lesions on the extremities. It is a rare and abrupt vasculitis-like condition that can progress to death due to blood dyscrasia and/or sepsis. It is caused by the exacerbated proliferation of *Mycobacterium leprae* in lepromatous spectrum patients whose acute manifestations may be conducive to the leprosy's diagnosis.

**Observation:** A 50 years old man, afro-descendant, unemployed, from São Paulo metropolitan area, was admitted to the emergency unit with a 4-day history of malaise and dark-colored vomiting. He presented ecchymosis in the upper and lower limbs, diffuse infiltration, nasal pyramidal fall, hard palate perforation, bilateral eyebrows loss and left foot deformity. After two days the disease progressed to necrotic skin lesions on the face and extremities associated with blisters and generalized edema. The diagnosis of lepromatous leprosy with Lucio's phenomenon was made by skin smear bacilloscopy and histopathological examination. On the 4th day of hospitalization multidrug therapy was introduced and multiple debridements were needed. The patient was discharged after three months with healing of the skin lesions, but required amputation of all third phalanges of both hands.

**Key message:** LP occurs in LL patients after years of untreated disease. Because it is a thrombotic event that occurs due to bacillary multiplication with tissue necrosis, it can lead to death and/or cause severe sequelae if it not promptly treated with multidrug therapy. Due to its rarity and to the fact that it is now being described in regions where there were no previous cases, this report aims to highlight a severe case of leprosy, a neglected disease, that has an effective and free treatment that if not treated properly can lead to death and/or





advanced physical disabilities.

