



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

## LUCIO'S PHENOMENON DURING TREATMENT OF LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY

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**Introduction:** Lucio's phenomenon is a rare leprous reaction state with a severe prognosis. We report the first case Malagasy of Lucio's phenomenon occurred during lepromatous leprosy's treatment.

**Observation:** A 18 years-old woman without any significant past medical history was referred to the dermatology department for necrotic ulcers. The disease begun two years ago with multiple nodules lesions on the face, upper and lower extremities. After bacteriology Then, the diagnosis have been lepromatous leprosy. She have received multibacillary polychemotherapy. During the twelfth months of treatment, the multiple ulcero-necrotic lesions have appeared. Also she have had a deterioration of the general status with pain joints and fever. Although she have received corticotherapy 1 mg/kg/day during 4 months, necrotic lesions persisted. On physical examination, she presented multiple ulcerated and necrotic lesions on the trunk, the upper lower extremities, leproma on the face. There was no inflammatory lymph nodes. The skin biopsy have found leucocytoclastic vasculitis of the superficial and middle dermis, and the Ziehl-Nelsen staining revealed numerous acid-fast bacilli (BI 5 +). The diagnosis of Lucio's phenomenon was therefore, made before typical skin lesions in the context of multibacillary Leprosy.

In the literature review the Lucio's phenomenon appeared before or after treatment of active lepromatous leprosy. Our observation differs from the review of the literature by the young year of the patient, apparence of the Lucio phenomenon during corticotherapy.

**Conclusion:** Usually described in America, the Lucio phenomenon can also be encountered in Africa. In addition to the typical skin lesions, necrotic wounds should be included in the telltale signs of leprosy.

