MALIGNANT STAPHYLOCOCCAL DISEASE OF THE FACE COMPLICATED BY FATAL THROMBOPHLEBITIS IN AN IMMUNOCOMPETENT

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Introduction: Staphylococcal malignancy of the face (SMF) is an infection that remains exceptional. With a rapidly extensive potential, it is life-threatening because of its risk of cerebral thrombophlebitis.

Observation: We report the case of a 36-year-old patient with no history, who was admitted to the emergency department in a state of consciousness disorder and sepsis. The lesion appeared three days after manipulation of a furuncle at the tip of the nose, with a bilateral erythematous-edematous placard occupying the 2 cheeks, nose and both eyes, associated with regional adenopathies. Ophthalmologic examination revealed bilateral conjunctival hyperemia. The neurological examination showed a Glasgow score at 13, and a heaviness of the right hemi-body. Cerebral and facial imaging revealed venous thrombosis of the cerebral cavernous sinus. Anti-staphylococcal antibiotic and heparin therapy was urgently initiated, but the course was fatal after 48 hours.

Discussion: The diagnosis of SMF is clinical, the portal of entry is often found with a furuncle of the face, the germs being conveyed by venous route. The occurrence is brutal by the installation of a dramatic picture of an erythematous-purplish plaque, an edema of the face, a septicemtic state, with sometimes a general deterioration and a disturbance of the conscience going to the agitated and febrile coma as is the case with our patient. Cervico-facial septic thrombophlebitis is a rare but fearful complication.