



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

MULTIBACILLARY LEPROSY IN ELDERLY PATIENTS: A GROWING REALITY IN AN ENDEMIC COUNTRY

Yliana Vela Gonzales⁽¹⁾ - Beatriz Oliveira Muguet⁽²⁾ - Gabriela Mauricio Silva⁽³⁾ - Larissa Toledo De Lima Duarte De Souza⁽⁴⁾ - Natalia Meirelles Nascimento Silva⁽²⁾ - Nathalya Barbosa Navarro⁽⁴⁾ - Stephanie Si Min Lilienwaldoei⁽³⁾ - José Da Costa Nery⁽¹⁾

Instituto De Dermatologia Prof. Rubem David Azulay, Hospital Santa Casa Da Misericórdia/dermatologia, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil⁽¹⁾ - Universidade Do Grande Rio, Internal Medicine, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil⁽²⁾ - Universidade Estácio De Sá, Internal Medicine, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil⁽³⁾ - Fundação Técnico-educacional Souza Marques, Internal Medicine, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil⁽⁴⁾

Background: Leprosy remains an important public health problem in Brazil, being the second highest burden of new cases worldwide, concentrating 92.3% of cases in the Americas. It is predominant among male and elderly population in the country according to Brazil's epidemiological bulletin of 2018, due to high prevalence of relapses which are attributable mainly to lack of global health strategies aimed to eradicate Leprosy.

Observation: A 62-year-old white man, seeks care with complaints of single face lesion. Patient reports that 4 months ago neurological impairment emerged without cutaneous manifestation. He reports new lesions on auricular pavilion, upper limbs and cervical region which have been present for 15 days with worsening of the neurological symptoms. Two weeks prior to the initial manifestations, patient presented with paresthesia on lower limbs and face.

Physical examination revealed infiltrated erythematous plaques on face, auricular pavilion, upper limbs and cervical region. Submitted to dermatoneurological examinations, lymph collection for bacilloscopy, cutaneous biopsy and laboratory tests for diagnostic hypothesis of leprosy.

A week later, he returns complaining of paresthesia on both feet and new erythematous infiltrated plaques on left malar region of the face, forehead, right chin, right cheek, edema and lesions on both feet.

Laboratory tests were normal. Slit-skin smear test results 3+, Histopathological exam showed Dimorphous Leprosy and degree of incapacity 1+. Multibacillary Leprosy was confirmed and treatment with first supervised dose of MDT-MB was initiated. Patient was





instructed with regard to subsequent treatment, and that his close contacts should be evaluated, and proceeds with his dermatological treatment. His case was notified in Brazil's notification system.

Key message: Highlight the importance of early diagnosis of leprosy to reduce its after-effects and consequent social prejudice especially in elderly population.

