



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

PROFILE OF CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS: A STUDY OF 65 CASES

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Introduction: Studies about cutaneous tuberculosis in Tunisia are rare.

The objective of our study is to describe the epidemiological, clinical and evolutionary profile of cutaneous tuberculosis in Central Tunisia population

Methods: We made a retrospective study: we considered all the cases of cutaneous tuberculosis admitted in the dermatology department of Farhat Hached hospital of Sousse, Tunisia, between 1986 and 2017

Results: We assessed 65 cases: Sex ratio was 0, 71. Mean age was 40, 75 years. Most cases came from rural area (80 %). Seventy seven percent of cases were diagnosed after the year 2000.

Personal history of tuberculosis was reported in 12,3 % of cases. The most common clinical presentation was lupus vulgaris (33 cases, 50,7%) and scrofuloderma (20 cases, 30,7%)... Extra-cutaneous tuberculosis was found in 12 cases (18,4 %). Tuberculin skin test was made for all patients: it was phlyctenular in 16 cases (24,6 %). Skin biopsy was made in 58 cases (89,2 %) and PCR analysis complement was contributive in 5 cases (7,69%). All the patients received quadric-therapy during 2 months then biotherapy during 4 to 10 months. Follow-up was possible only for 26 patients (40%): Atrophic scars were found in 20 cases (30,7%). One case with lupus vulgaris developed spinal cell carcinoma.

Conclusion: Our study confirmed the reported characteristics of Cutaneous tuberculosis in Tunisia like female predominance, rural area predominance and high frequency of multibacillary forms.

The increase of prevalence of cutaneous tuberculosis in the beginning of 21th century could be explained by the HIV pandemia.

Clinical variability depends on patient immunity status and way of contamination: That is why diagnosis was challenging but histologic examination with PCR analyses clarified the diagnosis.

Despite the increasing rate of resistance, anti-tubercular still actually effective but further





multicentric studies are crucial to control tuberculosis in Tunisia.

