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

RARE CASES OF CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS FROM SYRIA

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Background; For centuries, leishmaniasis has been an endemic disease in Syria. However, due to the recent Syrian conflict, a drastic increase in the numbers and severity of the disease has been noticed. As a definition, leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by an intracellular protozoa of the genus Leishmania. The Phlebotomus sand fly is the main vector. According to its clinical manifestation, there are three types of leishmaniasis; cutaneous leishmaniasis, mucocutaneous leishmaniasis and visceral leishmaniasis. The previous manifestations depend on the immune status of the host and the subgenus of the parasite. In Middle Eastern countries, the mucosal manifestation of leishmaniasis is considered rare (ie. Lip, nasal septum).

Observation; we presented three rare cases of leishmaniasis. Case 1: cutaneous leishmaniasis in a patient with MyeloDysplastic Syndrome (MDS) diagnosed during leishmaniasis investigations. Case 2: cutaneous leishmaniasis of the cheeks and lips in an infant. Case 3: a solitary lesion on the nasal septum. Routine blood work was performed in all cases and microscopic examination revealed the parasite inside the macrophages. Additionally; bone marrow aspiration was indicated for case 1 on the grounds of pancytopenia in the complete blood count suggesting the diagnosis of MDS which was confirmed after performing bone marrow biopsy. All patients received treatment of intramuscular Meglumine Antimoniate (Glucantim®).

Key message; In this case series we highlighted the importance of conducting all necessary lab tests to all patients presenting with cutaneous leishmaniasis as it may reveal underlying systemic conditions. Furthermore, we strongly recommend including the clinical manifestation and PCR results in epidemiological studies of leishmaniasis in Syria, as this will provide researchers with an efficient database that will contribute in the understanding and control of the new forms of leishmaniasis in the area.