



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

STEROID-DEPENDENT ERYTHEMA NODOSUM LEPROSUM ON RELEASE FROM TREATMENT BORDERLINE LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY PATIENT

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Background: Hansen's Disease or leprosy is a chronic infectious disease which affect the skin and nerve which caused by Mycobacterium leprae. Finishing Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) often is not the end for leprosy patients, because leprosy reaction tends to happen with the improvement of immunity. Corticosteroid as the treatment for leprosy reactions often develop dependency to prevent the reaction to reoccur, whereas many side effects could be caused by long term intake of corticosteroid.

Observation: A 42-year-old Balinese man presented with multiple erythematous nodules on both arms since 7 days before admission. Patient complained of pain when the nodules being touched or pressed. Fever, ocular pain and visual impairment was denied. Patient has been diagnosed with Borderline Lepromatous leprosy since November 2013 with Bacterial Index of +4 and has finished consuming MDT therapy for 1 year. Patient complaining of the same painful nodule since January 2015 and was treated with methylprednisolone and the nodule reoccur when the drug being tapered down. The patient was then treated with methylprednisolone and clofazimine as the sparing agent, however the nodules still reappear when the methylprednisolone is given at the lower dose, and the patient general condition tends to be more weak than when only treated with methylprednisolone alone.

Key message: Leprosy reaction has become a great problem for leprosy patients and the caregiver. The difficulty of controlling the reaction without getting side effects from the treatment increase morbidity of leprosy patients even after finishing the MDT therapy. Clofazimine as one of the alternative treatment for steroid-dependent leprosy reaction patients still gives low response compared to corticosteroids. Thalidomide as another treatment is still unavailable in many countries due to its side effect. This case illustrate the struggle of treating leprosy patient with reaction which depended on corticosteroid as the disease-controlling drug.

