



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

THE GREAT IMITATOR, DOING IT AGAIN! A RARE CASE OF HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA COMPLICATED BY ACTINOMYCOSIS GIVING A MYCETOMA-LIKE APPEARANCE. CASE REPORT.

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Background: An unusual presentation of cutaneous actinomycosis (CA), the first report of its kind. A 45-year-old Latin-American male presented with painful abscesses and multiple sinus tracts in buttocks, thighs and scrotum. His medical history included a fistulectomy and diagnosis of probable hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). Although he denied previous trauma, the clinical presentation was of actinomycetoma. The microscopic findings included yellowish sulfur-granules and filamentous Gram-positive, and *Actinomyces israelii* was isolated in anaerobic culture; histological examinations showed a granulomatous suppurative process, which led to the final diagnosis of HS associated with actinomycosis. The patient was then treated with amoxicillin/clavulanic with clinical improvement. Actinomycosis is a rare chronic disease caused by *Actinomyces* spp part of microbiota of human mouth, the typical clinical presentation is the cervicofacial one being the cutaneous form extremely rare. The probable pathogenesis is skin disruption, in this case the fistulectomy could be the one to blame. Making the diagnosis is quite a challenge, especially it's important to observe grains and obtain the culture in anaerobiosis. Treatment of choice is with high dose penicillin-G or some derivatives from 6-12 months.

Observation: Cutaneous actinomycosis is a rare entity and the combination with HS has only been reported once, in a different context. Bacterial pathogens associated with HS were studied recently and showed that there was a predominance in polymicrobial anaerobic microflora, including anaerobic actinomycetes. In the knowledge that the urgent and appropriate treatment improve the quality of life of HS patients, actinomycosis must be taken into account. Not only because it needs a prolonged antimicrobial therapy, but also because immunosuppressive agents used for HS would worsen it.

Key message: It is important to evaluate superinfection in HS, as its treatment with immunosuppressive therapy, would worsen the infection, and *Actinomyces* spp. must be taken into account as it might be underdiagnosed.

