



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

CRYOSURGERY AND SYSTEMIC ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY: A THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVE FOR SEVERE REFRACTORY FOLLICULITIS KELOIDALIS NUCHAE

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Background: Folliculitis keloidalis or acne keloidalis nuchae (AKN) is a chronic disorder, which mainly affects African descent men after puberty. It is characterized by inflammation of hair follicles leading to papules and pustules that evolves to keloid-like plaques. The occipital area is the most affected. Friction, occlusion, haircut style and curly texture are contributory factors. The diagnosis is clinical and the treatment aims to reduce inflammation, minimize exacerbation and improve the appearance of unaesthetic scars. This report illustrates a case of prolonged evolution AKN, which has been refractory to more conventional treatments, having a satisfactory response to combination therapy with systemic antibiotic and cryosurgery.

Observation: Fifty-year old, ethnic skin male referred to the dermatology department with a massive plaque in the occipital region, resulting from 20 years of AKN evolution. He have been previously submitted to surgeries, radiotherapy and intralesional steroid therapies, which have failed. The patient evolved with neck lymphedema due to dysfunction of local lymphatic drainage leading to movement limitation. Peripheral polytrichia and seropurulent discharge were associated. Considering previous treatment history, it was decided to initiate prolonged systemic antibiotic therapy with tetracycline and doxycycline in distinct timing. Manual extraction of peripheral tufted hair and weekly cryosurgery with liquid nitrogen were performed in different regions of the lesion, allowing it to heal by secondary intention. The patient evolved in 3 months with an important reduction of cervical edema, improvement of motion range, reduction of keloid size, inflammation and pain.

Key Message: Various therapeutic modalities have been described in literature to treat AKN, including corticotherapy, antibiotics, retinoids, radiotherapy, UVB phototherapy, laser hair removal and conventional surgery. This patient management was chosen based on past therapies poor outcome. Until the end of this report, patient continues under treatment, significantly improving his quality of life and aesthetic appearance.

