



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

KELOIDAL MORPHEA : AN ATYPICAL CASE WITH SATISFYING OUTCOME

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Background: Keloidal morphea is a rare form of scleroderma that may occur with localized or systemic scleroderma (SS). We hereby report a case of keloidal morphea with remarkable findings.

Observation: A 52-year-old female patient with a long history of rheumatoid arthritis had been followed up in our department for localized scleroderma morphea type. After 11 years of follow up, she developed firm nodules on the trunk. These lesions initially started on the site of a skin biopsy and gradually spread to involve the rest of preexisting morphea plaques. There was no clinical sign of SS. Laboratory analyses showed a positive ANA (1/640) with negative tests for anti-Scl-70 and anti-centromere. The skin biopsy of a keloidal lesion revealed a thinned epidermis with the presence of bundles of thick collagens in the dermis. The diagnosis of keloidal morphea was thus made. She had been treated with topical corticosteroids and PUVA therapy without satisfactory results. After 10 years of follow up, she developed recurrent attacks of abdominal pain with diarrhea and small amount of mucous and bloody discharge. Colonic biopsies showed a transmural inflammatory infiltrate and evidence of an epithelioid granuloma. She was diagnosed with Crohn's disease and was treated with Sulfasalazine 3 gr/daily. After 12 months of treatment, while intestinal symptoms remained stable, we have noticed clinical improvement of her scleroderma plaques.

Key message: Keloidal morphea is a rare disease and has been previously described in the literature with less than fifty cases. The lesions affected with preference the trunk. Unlike our patient, the majority of patients presented with sclerodactyly as well as extra cutaneous manifestations of SS. Association with rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease has been previously reported. The treatment is challenging. The successful outcome with Sulfasalazine suggests that this drug may be useful in further cases.

