



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

MORPHEA “EN COUP DE SABRE” WITH INTRA-ORAL INVOLVEMENT

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Background: When linear scleroderma occurs in the face, neck and scalp area, it is called morphea en coup de sabre (MCS). Whilst in almost all cases it affects the skin, there are anecdotal cases in which associated mucosal involvement has been described. We describe a rare case of a young woman with MCS with oral involvement

Observation: A 21-year-old woman presented with a 13-year history of a lesion on the lip. Her personal and family history was otherwise unremarkable. Examination showed a hyperpigmented, atrophic, linear lesion extending from her nose to her upper lip on the left-hand side of her face. Examination of the oral mucosa revealed a sclerosed white atrophic and band-like lesion extending from the labial mucosa to the labial gingiva attached to the left maxillary incisor. This lesion was in continuity with a nontender red plaque located on the keratinized mucosa of the gingival region of this teeth and further extending to the gingival of the left maxillary canine, with a pronounced recession of the gingival involving the tooth22. No increased mobility of her tooth was found. Examination of the rest of the skin was otherwise unremarkable. Blood analysis was normal. Panoramic radiographic examination revealed moderate alveolar bone resorption adjacent to tooth22.

The diagnosis of MCS was suspected and histologically confirmed. Treatment with methotrexate (10mg/week) and systemic corticosteroids (0,5mg/kg/day) was initiated, but the patient was lost to follow up.

Key message: Although this was a single-case report, it reiterates that patients who present with linear scleroderma deserve a thorough examination that includes an oral exam. Physicians should be familiar with the wide spectrum of presentations of morphea, and now further consider this diagnosis in the presence of whitish sclerotic plaques of the oral mucosa. Its prompt recognition and close follow-up are important to avoid significant local complications.

