



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

## PYODERMA GANGRENOSUM SECONDARY TO TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT

*Filomena Russo<sup>(1)</sup> - Maria Laura Flori<sup>(2)</sup> - Paolo Taddeucci<sup>(2)</sup> - Michele Fimiani<sup>(2)</sup> - Pietro Rubegni<sup>(2)</sup>*

*Department Of Clinical Medicine And Immunological Science, University Of Siena, Dermatology Section, Siena, Italy<sup>(1)</sup> - Department Of Clinical Medicine And Immunological Science, University Of Siena, Dermatology Section, Siena, Italy<sup>(2)</sup>*

**Background:** Pyoderma gangrenosum is a severe neutrophilic dermatosis that may occur as a complication following any kind of surgery. Although mainly reported secondary to breast surgery, it may rarely follow orthopedic surgery.

**Observation:** We report a case of pyoderma gangrenosum secondary to total hip replacement in a 87-year-old man. Eight days postoperatively a pustular lesion appeared in the mid part of the scar. In few days, the centrifugal cutaneous ulceration reached several centimeters in size and was surrounded by a reddish-purple inflammatory ring. A diagnosis of early infection was considered and empirical antibiotic therapy was given awaiting bacteriological results, due to the worsening of the skin lesions at 48 hours. Clinical evolution at 5 days showed 38 °C fever, increased PCR and, above all, continued worsening of the skin ulcer that was purulent and reached a diameter of 15 cm. Only at this stage a dermatological advice was requested. A skin biopsy was performed from the edge of the lesion and the histological examination confirmed the suspected diagnosis of pyoderma gangrenous. Corticosteroid therapy was rapidly effective and healing with no sequelae was obtained after 20 days of metilprednisone at 1.5 mg/kg per day.

**Key message:** We report this case because the diagnosis of post-surgical pyoderma gangrenosum remains challenging: distinct clinical signs in combination with symptom aggravation despite correct antibiotic therapy are the principal alarm signals, especially where there is severe inflammatory syndrome, negative bacteriological findings and associated systemic disorder (Crohn's disease, polyarthritis, diverticulitis, monoclonal gammopathy, immunologic disorder or cancer).

