PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

CASE SERIES OF HEMORRHAGIC BULLOUS HENOCH-SCHONLEIN PURPURA AND A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Juthika Thakur [(1)]

University Of Toronto, Dermatology, Toronto, Canada [(1)]

Background: Henoch Schonlein Purpura (HSP) is the most common type of vasculitis occurring in children. Skin lesions are classically purpuric but erythematous maculopapules, petechiae, urticarial wheals, and hemorrhagic edema are also described Hemorrhagic bullous Henoch Schonlein purpura is a rare variant characterized by small to large hemorrhagic bullae on the extremities of children presenting with the typical tetrad of abdominal pain, nonthrombocytopenic purpura, arthritis and renal involvement. The clinical spectrum of HSP is highly variable; however, hemorrhagic bullae have rarely been reported as the presenting feature. It is not yet clear whether hemorrhagic bullous Henoch Schonlein purpura have the same outcomes compared to their non-hemorrhagic bullous counterparts. Herein we review 4 cases and a review of the literature.

Observation: Herein we review the clinical features, histopathology where applicable, and clinical course in four patients who presented in the last 5 years at Sick Kids hospital with the diagnosis of hemorrhagic bullous HSP. Patients with bullous hemorrhagic HSP were typically treated with oral corticosteroids for symptom management. A MEDLINE search (all years) was conducted using the following MeSh headings: ‘hemorrhagic bullae’, ‘henoch schonlein purpura’, ‘vesicubullous skin’, and various related synonyms. Case reports, case series, and reviews describing HSP were selected. This yielded 48 results, which were then hand-searched to identify relevant articles. Thirty-nine final studies were selected. The incidence and progression of associated kidney disease has been documented in the cases reviewed. There is no consensus on the treatment of isolated skin manifestations, although some authors recommend use of systemic corticosteroids for severe skin disease. A diagnosis of hemorrhagic bullous variant of HSP does not provide additional prognostic information regarding kidney disease.

Key Message: Pediatricians and dermatologists should be aware of uncommon presentations of Henoch Schonlein Purpura, including hemorrhagic bullous variants.