



PSORIASIS

BIOLOGICAL THERAPY FOR PSORIASIS IN A COMPLEX CLINICAL SCENARIO: THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT.

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Background. Prison is considered a “difficult” environment, where both detainees and guards are often exposed to traumatic and stressful events. Although the incidence of psoriasis in prison-dwellers does not differ from the general population, its emotional impact in the context of intrapersonal dynamics based on power is enormous. Psoriatic lesions, especially the most evident ones in areas such as face and hands, were equally detrimental to the imprisoned patient and to the guard – the former suffered from marginalization and abuse from others; the latter experienced deep psychological discomfort and loss of authority. In both patients, the resulting stress, probably, lead to the progression of the condition. Moreover, the management of a chronic disease like psoriasis in this setting represents a challenge.

Observation: We present two cases, one related to a detainee and one related to a prison security officer. Both patients, young men, had psoriasis for more than 5 years. The inmate had performed topical therapies, retinoids and PUVA. The psoriasis was characterized by erythematous plaques on the trunk and extremities (PASI 18). The guard had performed retinoids, PUVA and methotrexate. Psoriasis affected the trunk and, above all, the face and hands (PASI 15). Both the patients were eligible for biologic drugs. Before treatment, they underwent comprehensive laboratory investigations, including Mantoux test, HIV, HBV and C screening and chest X-ray. The introduction of Ustekinumab (anti-IL12-23 antibody) allowed the complete remission of the disease in two months in both the patients. Ustekinumab, thanks to its efficacy and ease of administration, granted the right to health and safety in atypical environments.

Key message: Both the detainee and the guard felt victims of psoriasis, suffering from its social stigma. Therefore, the use of efficacious, easy-to-manage medications can make a huge difference in the quality of life of these “particular” patients.

