



PSORIASIS

PEDIATRIC PUSTULAR PSORIASIS AND GROWTH FAILURE : IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP?

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Background: Generalized pustular psoriasis is a rare variant of psoriasis in children. This pediatric pustular psoriasis (PPP) can occur in patients with or without psoriasis vulgaris. To the best of our knowledge, there are no reports of growth-failure associated to PPP. Herein, we report a case of growth delay that may be directly caused by PPP.

Observation: a 9 year-old boy with a history of psoriasis vulgaris since 5 year-old, was treated successfully with topical corticosteroids for one year and had a clinical remission for 2 years. His psychomotor development was normal and there was no history of familial growth-delay. Moreover, he had a normal growth velocity in his pediatric records until 7 year-old. Since one year, he developed a pustular eruption that was resistant to antibiotics and topical corticosteroids and was referred to our institution. The physical examination revealed fever (38.5°C) and erythematous scaly plaques with desquamation on the scalp, face and bilateral upper and lower extremities. He had multiple confluent pustules with purplish erythematous plaques on the chest, abdomen, back and buttocks. His weight (20kg) and height (122cm) were under the 5th percentile on the weight/height for age chart. Bone age was also delayed. Investigations did not reveal malnutrition or endocrine disorders. Topical corticosteroids were unlikely incriminated. The patient was treated by acitretin 20mg/d with complete regression of the cutaneous lesions after one month. His weight/height reached the 25th percentile after one year of treatment.

Key message: Pustular psoriasis could be associated to growth-failure in children. This could be an adverse event of the treatment (corticosteroids or acitretin) or a result of endocrine interference caused by the chronic inflammatory state. Larger scale studies are needed to better detail this association. Meanwhile, growth monitoring with X-rays every 12 months could be recommended in children with pustular psoriasis.

