PSORIASIS

PUSTULAR PSORIASIS IN TUNISIA : A 10-YEAR REVIEW

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Introduction : Pustular psoriasis (PP) is a rare and severe form of psoriasis that is relatively common in Tunisia. It presents as an acute, subacute, or chronic pustular eruption.

Objective: The purpose of our study is to describe the epidemio-clinical features of PP in our context.

Material and methods : A retrospective study conducted between 2008 and 2017 concerning patients followed in our department for PP.

Results : Thirty-five patients were included, counting 25 women (71.4%) and 10 men (28.6%). Their age ranged from 1 to 82 years (mean: 38.1). Four patients had a family history of pustular psoriasis, all of whom born from first-degree consanguineous marriages. A mutation of IL36-RN has been identified in one of these families. The form of PP was acute generalized (Von Zumbusch) in 14 cases (40%), annular in 9 cases (25.7%), palmo-plantar in 10 cases (28.6%) and an Acrodermatitis Continua of Hallopeau was seen in 5.7% of cases. Psoriatic arthritis was observed in 7 patients (20%). The most effective treatment consisted of systemic retinoids in 19 cases (54.3%), methotrexate in 7 cases (20%), biologics in 5 cases (14.3%), and topical corticosteroids in 4 cases (11.3%).

Conclusions: In our series, PP has occurred in most of the cases in young patients with a clear female predominance. Acute generalized and annular forms are the most commonly found forms, and are often associated with psoriatic arthritis, which worsens the prognosis. There are familial forms of PP where the disease is transmitted in an autosomal recessive mendelian mode. Consanguineous families from southern Tunisia have been found to have a genetic mutation of IL36-RN. Systemic retinoids proved best in treating PP. Progress in understanding the mechanisms of the PP should undoubtedly lead to developments towards new targeted treatments.