



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

ADULT T-CELL LEUKEMIA/LYMPHOMA: REPORT OF FOUR CASES

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Background: Adult T-cell leukemia / lymphoma (ATL) is an aggressive T-cell neoplasm associated with HTLV-1 infection. Clinical features and prognosis are diverse, leading to subtype-classification into acute, chronic, smoldering, lymphomatous and primary cutaneous tumoral. Cutaneous lesions are seen in 40-70% of the patients and can mimic infectious, inflammatory and neoplastic diseases. Histopathological findings, on the other hand, may not be able to differentiate it from other cutaneous T-cell lymphomas.

Observation: Four cases of ATL are presented: three males and one female, ranging from 38 to 83 years of age. Clinical manifestations varied from erythematous-desquamative plaques to multiple tumors and erythroderma. Histopathological analysis of all cases demonstrated atypical dermal lymphocytic infiltrate, with discrete epidermotropism.

Key Message: All patients were originally from Rio de Janeiro, a non-endemic area, tested positive for HTLV-1 and fulfilled the criteria proposed by Matutes & Catovsky (1992) for the diagnosis of ATL. Regarding Shimoyama's modified ATL classification (1991), two patients were classified as smoldering, one as primary cutaneous tumoral and one as acute. The objective of this study is to emphasize the importance of HTLV-1 serology, even in non-endemic areas, as an indicator for early diagnosis of ATL.

