



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

PSORIASIS AND MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES IN A PATIENT WITH BACKGROUND PEMPHIGUS FOLIACEUS; A MERE COINCIDENCE?

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Background: Pemphigus foliaceus is an autoimmune blistering condition due to auto-antibodies to desmoglein 1 while mycosis fungoides is a type of cutaneous T cell lymphoma. Psoriasis is a chronic papulosquamous disorder which can involve the skin, scalp, nails, mucous membranes and joints. Several cases of mycosis fungoides initially diagnosed as psoriasis with occasional co-existence of the two conditions in the same patient exists in the literature. This case report highlights the occurrence of psoriasis and mycosis fungoides in a patient with recently managed pemphigus foliaceus.

Observation: A 36 year old lady presented with a three year history of recurrent generalised bullous eruptions sparing the mucosa. Fasting blood sugar was noted to be in the diabetic range, however full blood count, viral markers, renal function were normal. Histology revealed intraepidermal bullae in the granular layer with acantholytic keratinocytes and moderate eosinophilic spongiosis. A diagnosis of pemphigus foliaceus was made and patient was commenced on treatment with azathioprine. She went into remission but developed new erythematous well demarcated slightly scaly pruritic plaques eighteen months after initial diagnosis of pemphigus foliaceus was made. Histology showed typical features of both psoriasis and mycosis fungoides. Immunohistochemistry revealed diffuse CD3 and CD4 positivity and scattered CD8 positive T reactive cells. She has commenced chemotherapy and is being co-managed with haematology and oncology unit.

Key message: Mycosis fungoides may initially be misdiagnosed as psoriasis even histologically or both may occur concurrently in the same individual. This patient had a background history of pemphigus foliaceus followed by the aforementioned. The occurrence of the three conditions in the same patient may be as a result of immune dysregulation or simply mere coincidence.

