



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

CALCIPHYLAXIS, PRESENTATION OF 8 CASES.

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Background: Calciphylaxis is an ischemic cutaneous vasculopathy of vessels of medium and small size. It is an entity that reports high rates of morbidity and mortality.

Observation: A total of 8 patients (100% females) with an age range of 42–78 years were evaluated in the Dermatology Department of Hospital L. C. Lagomaggiore in the period between January 2007 to December 2017. All of them had a confirmatory biopsy. At the time of diagnosis, 62,5% were on hemodialysis, one patient were kidney transplant and one had normal renal function. Diabetes mellitus (50%), hypertension (50%) and hypothyroidism (62,5%) were the most common comorbidities. All patients presented severe painful skin lesions (87,5% ulcer, 12,5% plaque). 75% involved lower extremities and 25% abdominal pannus or thighs. Review of laboratory results showed that seven patients (87,5%) had dysregulated calcium-phosphorus metabolism. All patients received a multimodal approach to treatment, including combinations of intensive local wound care, normalization of metabolic derangements (calcium, parathyroid hormone levels, and uremia) and sodium thiosulfate (12,5%). One patient underwent parathyroidectomy and local wound care. We observed 75% of mortality in a period between 4 months and 3 years from the diagnosis.

Key message: Calciphylaxis is an uncommon condition that generally affects patients with chronic kidney disease. Calcium and phosphorus imbalance is a key risk factor. The diagnosis is made with clinic and histopathological findings. The prognosis of this disease is still poor despite the development of intensive combined treatments. Ultimately, successful treatment of calciphylaxis is a multidisciplinary effort, and should involve close collaboration between dermatology, cardiology, nephrology, hematology, palliative care, and the primary treatment team as necessary, depending on the disease in individual patients. The aim of the presentation is to describe eight patients with cutaneous manifestations of a rare condition, secondary mainly to chronic renal failure.

