



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

SUBACUTE CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: CASE SERIES OF 10 PATIENTS FROM TUNISIA

Marwa Bouchaala⁽¹⁾ - Emna Bahloul⁽²⁾ - Chourouk Turki⁽²⁾ - Hela Chaker⁽²⁾ - Hela Mesrati⁽²⁾ - Sonia Boudaya⁽²⁾ - Abderrahmen Masmoudi⁽²⁾ - Meriam Amouri⁽²⁾ - Hamida Turki⁽²⁾

Dermatology, Hedi Chaker, Sfax, Tunisia⁽¹⁾ - Dermatology, Hedi Chaker, Sfax, Tunisie⁽²⁾

Background: Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus(SCLE) is a type of lupus erythematosus having distinct characteristic epidemiological, clinical, and immunologic features.

Objective: To identify the clinical presentation of SCLE focusing particularly on the associated autoimmune diseases and therapeutic features.

Methods: A retrospective review of patients with SCLE was undertaken (2006-2018). The diagnosis of SCLE was based on the clinical and histological findings.

Results: Ten patients with a mean age of 30.2 (7to56) were included with a sex ratio F/M of 2.3. SCLE was drug induced in two cases. Associated autoimmune connective tissue diseases included Sjögren syndrome(1case), systemic lupus erythematosus(2cases) and overlap syndrome(1case). Skin photosensitivity was reported in 8 cases. The main localizations were the face (8cases) and upper limbs (7cases). Seven patients had annular polycyclic lesion and the rest had papulosquamous lesions. Three cases of oral erosions have been reported in association with cheilitis(2cases). Anti-Ro/SS-A positivity was present in 3of 9 patients tested, anti-RNP in4 of them, associated with anti-Sm positivity(2cases) and anti-histone (1case). The histological examination of a skin biopsy showed an intense, band-like, inflammatory cell infiltrate with perivascular and periadnexal involvement (7cases). DIF was positive in 3cases of 7 patients tested. A solar eviction has been advocated in all cases. The most common therapy was hydroxychloroquine(7 patients), with a complete response noted in 71% of cases with available follow-up data. Only 2 patients having SCLE associated with SLE were treated with oral corticosteroid therapy.

Conclusion: Our case series is remarkable for the frequency of associated autoimmune connective tissue disease to SCLE(40%). Intraoral lesions have not been reported in most case series of SCLE. Our findings suggest that oral involvement in SCLE may not be as rare





as once thought. The drug-induced SCLE herein reported in two cases(20%) is similar to a previous case series(28%).Most patients responded to treatment with hydroxychloroquine.

