



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

## TENOSYNOVITIS - A VERY UNUSUAL PRESENTATION OF TYPE 1 LEPRA REACTION.

*S Bhatia<sup>(1)</sup> - R Rao<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Department Of Dermatology, Manipal Academy Of High Education, Dakshina Kannada, India<sup>(1)</sup>*

**BACKGROUND:** Leprosy is a chronic granulomatous infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* with predominant involvement of skin and peripheral nervous system. Tenosynovitis is an uncommon manifestation of leprosy even though musculoskeletal system involvement is common.

**OBSERVATION:** A 31-year-old male patient who was a known case of Borderline Tuberculoid (BT) leprosy for 8 months reported with complaints of swelling of bilateral hands and nodular lesion over left elbow of 1 day duration. He had discontinued MB-MDT 20 days before onset of the lesions. When he presented for the first time, he had similar complaints. On clinical examination, there was a tender cystic swelling over left olecranon process and left ulnar nerve was thickened, along with swelling of left index finger and multiple erythematous papulonodular lesions over face and extremities. He had decreased sensations over bilateral hands and legs below knee joint. There was no associated fever or other constitutional symptoms. Slit skin smear revealed Bacterial index = 1 and Morphological index = 0. Routine investigations were within normal limits. A skin biopsy for histopathology from one of the papulonodular lesions on the right arm revealed curvilinear to oval granulomas composed of epithelioid cells with dense sprinkling of lymphocytes in periadnexal and perineural distribution and perivascular chronic inflammatory infiltrate in superficial and deep dermis. Fite staining was negative. On basis of clinical and laboratory findings a diagnosis of type 1 reaction presenting with tenosynovitis was made. He was continued on MB-MDT and oral steroids, following which his skin lesions and the swelling and pain of fingers improved in a few days.

**KEY MESSAGE:** Tenosynovitis is an unusual presentation of Type 1 reaction in leprosy. Only few cases have been reported so far. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a great mimicker of rheumatic diseases.

