



VASCULAR DISEASE, VASCULITIS

A CASE OF TONGUE NECROSIS ASSOCIATED WITH CUTANEOUS POLYARTERITIS NODOSA

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Introduction: Polyarteritis Nodosa is a necrotizing vasculitis that predominantly affects medium sized arteries. Cutaneous manifestations of livedo reticularis, subcutaneous nodules and ulcers are present in up to 60% of cases. Variants limited to the skin are less common and associated with more favourable outcomes.

Case: This case presents a 35-year-old woman who developed necrosis and subsequent autoamputation of her tongue as a complication of vasculitis. Cutaneous Polyarteritis Nodosa was suspected as the cause of vasculitis both clinically and histologically.

Literature: Tongue necrosis is rare due to its rich arterial supply from the bilateral lingual arteries and has only been reported in children and one adult with Polyarteritis Nodosa.

Key message: Tongue Necrosis is a rare presentation of Cutaneous Polyarteritis Nodosa with serious ischaemic consequences impairing speech and swallowing. Early recognition and treatment with corticosteroids and cyclophosphamide have been shown to achieve remission

