



VASCULAR DISEASE, VASCULITIS

ERYTHEMA ELEVATUM DIUTINUM (EED) ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B INFECTION AND HASHIMOTO'S THYROIDITIS

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Background: Erythema elevatum diutinum (EED) is a rare type of leukocytoclastic vasculitis characterized by violet-colored, brown papules, plaques or nodules mainly involving the extensor surfaces, especially over the joints. We present a case of EED with previous history of chronic hepatitis B infection and Hashimoto's thyroiditis with good response to dapsone treatment.

Observation: A 54-year-old woman presented with painful, red-purple, brown papules and nodules involving the hands, elbows, knees and feet, which appeared 4 months ago with remission and recurrences. Anamnestic exploration revealed Hashimoto's thyroiditis with euthyroid state and previous hepatitis B infection in her twenties. Histology showed leukocytoclastic vasculitis with neutrophilic and eosinophilic perivascular infiltrates and fibrin deposition around the blood vessels. Serum immunoelectrophoresis was suggestive of IgG-lambda monoclonal gammopathy. Treatment was started with oral corticosteroids and dapsone 100 mg/day orally. Therapy was continued with low doses of corticosteroids and dapsone 50 mg/ day. A response was seen within two weeks of initiation of dapsone therapy. Over the course of 6 months a clinical response was obtained with significant improvement of the cutaneous lesions.

Key message: We speculate that the occurrence of hepatitis B virus infection and Hashimoto's thyroiditis are an associated phenomena, which should be one of the possible pathogenic factors in development of the autoimmune reaction and consequent onset of EED.

