



VASCULAR DISEASE, VASCULITIS

RECALCITRANT LIVEDOID VASCULOPATHY: 10-YEAR SINGLE CENTER ANALYSIS

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Background: Livedoid vasculopathy (LV) is a rare disease manifesting as recurrent ulcers on the lower extremities. The important procoagulant factors include protein C and S deficiency, factor V Leiden mutation, antithrombin III deficiency and prothrombin gene mutation.

Objectives: To analyse disease characteristics and treatment modalities in livedoid vasculopathy patients treated in the hospital setting.

Study design: Retrospective analysis of livedoid vasculopathy in patients who were recalcitrant to previous treatments treated from 2008-2017 was done. Hospital database was used for the retrieval of data. The patients were followed from 6 months to 3 years.

Results: There were 10 patients with LV, 6 females and 4 man, age 21-54 years (average 32 years). All patients had ulcerations and atrophie blanche localized on lower extremities. Previous treatments consisted of nonsteroid antiinflammatory drugs, acetylsalicylic acid and topical treatment. APTT and PT were in optimal range in all patients. Antithrombin III deficiency was evident in 7/10 patients, factor V Leiden mutation was found in 4/6 patients, MTHFR heterozygote genotype in 3/6 patients, anticardiolipin antibodies IgG in 1/10 patients and protein S deficiency in none of the patients. Patients were treated with dipirydamol, acetylsalicylic acid and pentoxifyllin and 7/10 patients needed a short-term systemic corticosteroid therapy. Due to the recalcitrant disease, in 8/10 patients hyperbaric oxygen therapy was also advised. Reduction of skin changes for more than 50% and pain reduction was evident after 30 HBO treatments with the reduction of pain. In 7 patients complete healing of ulcers was achieved, and remissions lasted from 2-18 months.

Conclusion: In recalcitrant cases, anticoagulants were the most commonly used therapy, but all patients needed combination of two or more treatment modalities, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy was very effective treatment for ulcer healing and pain relief.

