



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## PARACOCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS: AN UNCOMMON PRESENTATION

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**Background:** A 76-year-old female patient complained of painful skin lesions for two months. She denied previous trauma, fever and had already undergone local and systemic antibiotic treatment without improvement. Her past medical history includes diabetes mellitus type II and hypertension.

**Observation:** Physical examination showed a depressed patient complaining of severe pain on the lesions. Dermatological examination showed ulcers with large diameter, with necrotic areas and necrotic crusts, with a surrounding erythematous halo. The lesions were more exuberant on the deltoids, with satellite ones present on shoulders, forearms and sternum. Complementary physical examination was unremarkable.

Given the exuberance of lesions, some hypotheses were suggested, like as: Pyoderma gangrenosum, due to the presence of fast growing and painful ulcers, but there was no violet halo or undermined edges. Primary cutaneous cryptococcosis, due to the inflammatory aspect of the ulcers associated with necrosis and involvement of exposed areas, but bilaterality of lesions did not support the hypothesis. Cutaneous biopsies and blood tests were performed.

The final and surprising diagnosis was paracoccidioidomycosis, confirmed by histopathological and mycological data. Complementary exams ruled out involvement of other organs. Laboratory tests showed only elevated blood glucose levels. HIV testing was negative. Treatment with itraconazole promoted clinical resolution.

**Key message:** Cutaneous lesions in paracoccidioidomycosis occur in up to 62.1% of cases, but usually concomitantly to lesions in multiple organs, mainly on the lungs. Ulcers with necrotic areas is also an unusual presentation of the disease since cutaneous ulcers in paracoccidioidomycosis usually exhibit hemorrhagic dots, like those classical of mucous lesions. Older age, comorbidities and immunosenescence probably contributed to a rapid evolution and atypical presentation of the disease. Paracoccidioidomycosis is a prevalent disease in South America usually exhibiting oro-cutaneous lesions, allowing clinical and histopathological diagnoses and can be seen in Europe as an imported disease.

