



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

FOLLICULAR MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES: A PAEDIATRIC CASE

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BACKGROUND: Mycosis fungoides (MF), a type of T-cell lymphoma, is exceptional in the paediatric age. The follicular variant is described in 3-30% of patients and may be difficult the differential diagnosis with idiopathic follicular mucinosis. The generalized lesions as well as the presence of cytological atypia in the follicular infiltrate, with or without mucinosis, accompanied by the demonstration of the same clonal peak of the T cells in two different lesions, would suggest this diagnosis.

OBSERVATION: A 10-year-old girl consulted in october 2016 for pruritic erythematous and hypopigmented plaques of weeks of evolution localized on trunk, limbs, face and scalp with residual alopecia. At first, pityriasis rubra pilaris was suspected. The biopsy described a spongiotic dermatitis involving mostly hair follicles. In a second biopsy, lymphoid exocytosis, follicular mucinosis and perifollicular infiltrate with numerous eosinophils were observed. Phototherapy with narrow band UVB was prescribed with incomplete response. In a third biopsy, atypical lymphoid cells were described in the epidermal basal and in the follicular epithelium with CD4 expression and loss of CD7, suggesting the diagnosis of follicular MF. In molecular studies the same clonal peak has been demonstrated in two different lesions. The CT of staging was normal. After treatment with PUVA (psoralen and ultraviolet A) and topical clobetasol, she remains in complete remission.

KEY MESSAGE: In childhood, localized forms of follicular mucinosis have an excellent prognosis. However, the generalized forms in children may be a presentation of MF. The overall survival at this age is 90-95%, but requires lifelong follow-up. It is sometimes difficult to reach the diagnosis, and repeated samplings for hystological and molecular studies may be necessary.

