CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS MIMICKING DISEASE ACTIVITY IN A PATIENT WITH OVERLAP SYNDROME

Igor Tadeu Garcia Ferreira (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Claudia Valeria Vierhout (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Nadia Regina Bossolan Schincariol (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Jose Alexandre Mendonça (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Lucas Eduardo Pedri (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), André Marun Lyrio (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Rubens Bonfigioli (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), José Roberto Provenza (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Vanessa Ramos Guissa (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Flavia Regina Andrade (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Thais de Campos Ferreira Pinto (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Marina de Souza Vieira (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil), Fernanda Bertucci Sanches (PUC Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brasil)

BACKGROUND

The rheumatologic cutaneous manifestations closely resemble skin infections with indolent evolution. However, the diagnostic differentiation is important for an appropriate treatment. Erythema nodosum is an injury that is inserted in this context, can be associated with disease activity, but also tuberculosis.

In the usual screening for the initiation of immunosuppression, a mandatory test is the tuberculin test, mainly when considering the Brazilian epidemiology. However, some patients may not be positive for this test even in the presence of tuberculosis infection. In this case, the differentiation of the two conditions becomes even more difficult.

In the present report, we have a patient with cutaneous tuberculosis, who presented negative tuberculin test in the rituximab screening, worsening the lesion on the introduction of this medication.

CASE REPORT

Female, 47-year-old, with the diagnosis of overlapping syndrome of rheumatoid arthritis and dermatomyositis (polyarthritis, gottron papules, increased muscle injury markers, and electroneuromyography compatible with proximal myopathy) using prednisone, methotrexate, and azathioprine with regular control of the disease activity, started with panniculitis and erythema nodosum draining purulent secretion in the distal third of the left lower limb. It was considered an erythema nodosum hypothesis secondary to azathioprine, which was replaced by rituximab, aiming at better control of the disease and resolution of this cutaneous process.

However, even after all necessary triage to initiate rituximab, with the increase of immunosuppression, the lesion increased in extension and drainage of secretion. Patient was then referred to the infectology, initiated an investigation for mycobacteria, with the diagnostic, through the culture, of tuberculosis cutaneous lesion. So, it was initiated the treatment with rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide and ethambutol for 6 months with complete resolution of the lesion.

CONCLUSION

Rheumatological manifestations and indolent skin infections, such as mycobacteria, show a great deal of clinical similarity, and should be considered as a differential diagnosis, even in patients with a negative tuberculin test.