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MULTIPLE AUTOIMMUNE SYNDROME

A. Fraj¹, S. Arfa¹, O. Jomaa¹, F. Boubaker¹, I. Bannour², O. Berriche¹, H. Sfar¹.
¹University Hospital Tahar Sfar Mahdia, Tunisia, Internal Medicine and Endocrinology Department, Mahdia, Tunisia; ²University Hospital Fattouma Bourguiba Monastir, TUNISIA, 2-Immunology Department, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Multiple autoimmune syndrome (MAS) is a rare entity, defined by the association of three autoimmune diseases in the same patient. MAS can be classified into three groups.

Objectives: The objective of this work was to describe the autoimmune diseases profile in MAS in An Internal Medicine Department.

Methods: We report a retrospective analysis including 14 cases of MAS seen in The Internal Medicine Department at Tahar Sfar Hospital, Mahdia, TUNISIA over a period of 10 years.

Results: We followed 14 patients with MAS. They were 14 women. The mean age of patients was 52 years. SAM was type 3 in 12 patients (85%), type 2 in one patient (7.1%) and one patient satisfied both type 2 and type 3 MAS criteria (7.1%). No cases of MAS type 1 had been reported. We found 13 patients with 3 associated autoimmune diseases and one patient with 4 associated autoimmune diseases. The autoimmune diseases were: Sjögren's syndrome in 14 patients (100%), Hashimoto's thyroiditis in 11 cases (78%), systemic lupus erythematosus in 7 cases (50%), Addison's disease in 4 cases (28, 5%), scleroderma, thymoma, vitiligo, Biermer and primary biliary cholangitis each in one case (7.1%).

Conclusion: Multiple autoimmune syndrome remains a rare but probably under-diagnosed entity. Thus, in patients with autoimmune disease, initial investigation and follow-up of clinical signs and biological stigmas of other autoimmune diseases should be cautious.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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A RARE CASE OF A SOLITARY PLASMOCYTOMA OF A LUMBAR VERTEBRA

D. Khalifa¹, H. Hachfi¹, N. Ben Chekaya¹, M. Brahemi¹, M. Younes¹. ¹Tahar Sfar Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia

Background: Solitary plasmacytoma is a rare tumour that represents around 2 to 5% of all plasma cell dyscrasias. It normally affects soft tissue but rarely the bone. Diagnosis is based on histology, the absence of bone marrow involvement.

Objectives: To draw attention to think of solitary plasmacytoma of bone when dealing with a vertebral fracture in the absence of the CRAB criteria of multiple myeloma.

Methods: We report a rare case of a vertebral fracture of the 4th lumbar vertebra (L4) revealing a solitary plasmacytoma of bone.

Results: A 67-year-old female patient presented to our rheumatology department with back and left radicular pain of brutal onset, 15 days prior to her visit. Pain was severe and awakened her at nights. On examination, mobilities of the spine were unchanged but on palpation she had exquisite pain of L4. Laboratory tests showed a normal sedimentation rate of 15mm the first hour, a negative c-reactive protein, normal calcium and kidney tests. X-rays of lumbar spine showed a vertebral fracture with a destruction over 50% of the vertebral size and cortical rupture. MRI of the spine showed the absence of other lytic lesions or other fractures or spinal cord compression and showed the total destruction of the anterior vertebral body of L4 (Figure 1). Protein electrophoresis was in normal range and 24h urinary proteinuria was negative. Other tests ruled out gynecological, thyroid, and renal neoplasms. Sternal puncture showed a rich bone marrow of normal cells without further infiltration. Bone biopsy of the detected lesion showed tumour cells made of mature plasmocytes confirming the diagnosis of solitary plasmacytoma of the bone. The patient was treated with radiation therapy. The evolution after 24 months showed a stabilised lesion and the absence of progression to multiple myeloma.

Figure 1. T2 weighted MRI showing the vertebral fracture of L4

Conclusion: It is important to keep in mind the diagnosis of solitary plasmacytoma of bone when facing a solitary lesion or vertebral fracture despite relatively non aggressive radiological signs. It is also important to note the possible evolution to multiple myeloma and keep a hawk-eyed guard.

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VENOUS THROMBOSIS IN UNUSUAL SITES

A. Fraj¹, O. Berriche¹, S. Arfa¹, O. Jomaa¹, W. Romdhane¹, H. Sfar¹. ¹University Hospital Tahar Sfar Mahdia, Tunisia, Internal Medicine and Endocrinology Department, Mahdia, Tunisia

Background: Unusual site venous thrombosis (USVT), which includes venous thromboses of the upper limbs, digestive tract, cellular and brain, are rarely observed compared to those of the lower limbs and require both an etiological approach and a rigorous management.

Objectives: Our objective is to identify the epidemiological, clinical, therapeutic and evolutionary characteristics of USVT.

Methods: Retrospective study including 33 patients files with USVT followed in The Internal Medicine Departments at Tahar Sfar University Hospital Mahdia TUNISIA over a period of 10 years.

Results: They were 21 females (63.6%) and 12 males (36.4%) with an average age of 45.2 ± 18 years. Cerebral venous thrombosis was the most frequent localization identified in 10 patients (30.3%), followed by gastrointestinal thrombosis in 9 cases (27.3%), vena cava thrombosis in 9 cases (27.3%) and upper limb thrombosis in 5 cases (15.2%). The risk factors were respectively: age (42.4%), obesity (42.4%), smoking (30%), prolonged downtime (24.2%), surgical interventions (6.1%) and pregnancy (3%). An etiology was identified in 21 patients (66.6%), dominated by constitutional thrombophilia (27.3%), followed by BVL (15.1%) and Behçet's disease (16.4%). Rare causes were neoplasia in one case (3%), scleroderma in one case (3%) and inflammatory bowel disease in one case (3%). The etiological investigation was negative in 36.3% of cases. Treatment was based on heparin therapy followed by vitamin K therapy. Progression was favourable without accident or recurrence in 25 patients (75.5%). Complications were dominated by recurrence in 12.1% of cases, post-thrombotic disease in 6% of cases and pulmonary embolism in 3% of cases. We reported one death related to a hemorrhagic event.

Conclusion: USVT is a multifactorial pathology that involves both acquired and constitutional risk factors. Heparin therapy with an early relay by antivitamin K remains the treatment of choice today. The duration of treatment depends on the etiology, the recurrence of venous thrombosis and the risk of hemorrhagic complications.

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CAN INFLAMMATION COEXIST IN PATIENTS WITH PROGRESSIVE PSEUDORHEUMATOID DYSPLASIA?

S. Mahadevan¹, B. Navaneethan¹, N. Gopalakrishnapillai Syamala¹, M. Mamadapur¹, R. S¹, T. Tn¹. ¹Madras Medical College, Rheumatology, Chennai, India

Background: Progressive pseudorheumatoid dysplasia (PPRD) is considered as a degenerative genetic bone disorder. It is caused by loss of function mutation in WNT-1 inducible signaling pathway protein-3 (WISP-3)¹. WISP-3 gene function is required for the normal function of cartilage and skeletal development. The patients are normal at birth and start developing symptoms around 3-6 years of age². The disease is characterised by stiffness, pain, deformity due to enlargement of the ends of short and long bones. Often, such patients are misdiagnosed as Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). In general, PPRD being considered as non-inflammatory disease, immunosuppressants or disease modifying anti rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) like methotrexate treatment are not used for treatment.

Objectives: We report a patient with characteristic findings of PPRD but with coexisting clinical and imaging evidence of inflammation.

Methods: 16 year old male boy born of third degree consanguineous asymptomatic parents presented with progressive swelling, deformity of bilateral small and large joints of upper and lower limbs. He also had pain in both hip and knee for past two years. Pain is associated with difficulty in walking and squatting. On examination he had bony enlargement around bilateral elbow, wrist, proximal and distal interphalangeal joints (Figure 1A). He also had restriction of bilateral hip movements and swelling of bilateral knee with effusion. He had exaggerated lumbar lordosis and flexion deformity of bilateral hip, knee. His blood counts, ESR, CRP were normal. Analysis of Knee joint synovial fluid showed cell count of 200/mm³ with no crystals and sterile culture. USG knee showed evidence of synovial thickening with increased power Doppler signals. Skeletal survey showed typical findings of PPRD with enlargement of epiphysis and osteoarthritis