Cutaneous polyarteritis nodosa and common variable immunodeficiency: a previously unreported association

Sirs,

Cutaneous polyarteritis nodosa (c-PAN) is a necrotising inflammation of small and medium-sized vessels limited to the skin. It is characterised by subcutaneous painful nodules on the lower extremities, with no systemic involvement except for fever, myalgia, arthralgia (1). Skin biopsy shows necrotising non-granulomatous vasculitis. The cause of c-PAN is unknown. Infectious agents have been associated with the disease (2).

While vasculitis has been related to immunodeficiencies in adults, paediatric reports in this regard are scant. We describe a child with c-PAN and common variable immunodeficiency (CVID), followed in our Unit. A 2-year-old Caucasian girl, after three weeks of intermittent fever and cutaneous erythematous, painful nodular lesions on feet, ankles and prepubial regions, was admitted to a community hospital. Her family and personal history were negative. No severe infections were noted in past medical history; vaccinations had been performed against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and Hepatitis B; growth and development were within normal limits for age. Laboratory test showed anaemia (Hb=9.9 g/dl), increased ESR (86 mm/h) and CRP (4.10 mg/l), while antibody levels for disease control (4). At last follow-up, she never developed severely stopped. The girl remained in good health polyarteritis nodosa; childhood Takayasu arteritis: An unknown mechanisms.

The cause of c-PAN is unknown. Infectious agents have been related to vasculitis and immunodeficiency have been described, mostly in adults, but in paediatric age reports are scant (5). To our knowledge, the association of c-PAN with CVID has not been described before in the English literature. In conclusion, although the association of c-PAN and CVID can be fortuitous, both are due to immune system dysregulation, and could be related by yet unknown mechanisms.

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References

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