

Profuse warts revealing a WHIM syndrome

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Warts, hypogammaglobulinemia, recurrent infections, and myelokathexis (WHIM) syndrome is a rare autosomal dominant immune deficiency. It has been individualized since 1990, initially described in 1964 by Zuelzer-Krill [1]. Other symptoms include severe neutropenia, condyloma acuminata, malignancies (mainly carcinomas related to human papilloma virus infection), and B-cell lymphopenia with impaired antibody responses after vaccination. Patients may also present with or develop lymphopenia, monocytopenia, and deficiency of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in the circulation, with impairment in both innate and adaptive immunity. Mobilization of neutrophils can occur during acute infection. Thus, adequate neutrophil count should not rule out this condition, particularly if complete blood count is tested throughout the course of acute infections [2]. The prognosis for patients with WHIM depends in part on early recognition of the disorder, with aggressive medical intervention to reduce the frequency of recurrent bacterial infections,

and to detect and extirpate in the early stages any HPV lesions that appear to be dysplastic or malignant [3].



Figure 2-3: Diffuse vulgar warts at the level of 2 feet with the presence of a verrucous cupboard of the back of the left foot



Figure 1: Vulgar warts diffused at the level of the 2 hands



Figure 4: Multiple vulgar warts at the neck

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We report the case of a 34-year-old patient, with no similar case in the family, who for the last 8 years had profuse warts on the hands, feet and neck (Figs. 1 - 4), as well as recurrent episodes of skin bacterial infections. Biological exploration showed the presence of severe neutropenia and moderate hypogammaglobulinemia. The patient was initially put under salicylic acid, then oral retinoid and cimetidine, with average improvement of lesions and antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent bacterial superinfections.

Consent

The examination of the patient was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki principles.

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