

Unilateral bullous pemphigoid in a hemiplegic patient

Siham Belmourida, Meriame Meziane, Nadia Ismaili, Laila Benzekri, Karima Senouci

Department of Dermatology-Venereology, Mohammed V University, Ibn Sina Hospital, Rabat, Morocco

Corresponding author: Siham Belmourida, MD, E-mail: belmouridasiham2017@gmail.com

Sir,

Bullous pemphigoid (BP) is the most common autoimmune bullous dermatosis, mainly affecting the elderly. Its association with neurological diseases has been reported for several years in several studies, including with strokes.

We report a new case of unilateral BP in a hemiplegic patient.

A 78-year-old patient with a history of hypertensive and ischemic heart disease and ischemic stroke three years ago was admitted for pruriginous bullous dermatosis evolving for one month prior to admission. A general examination revealed right hemiplegia with facial involvement and aphasia. A dermatological examination found localized erosions on the paralyzed side of the body, without urticarial or bullous lesions. Nikolsky's sign was absent and the rest of the clinical examination was without abnormality (Figs. 1a – 1c). A skin biopsy revealed a skin coating widely ulcerated on the surface without eosinophilic infiltrate. Indirect immunofluorescence was positive at 1260. The diagnosis of BP was retained and the patient was started on a strong local dermocorticoid with a good evolution and the disappearance of the lesions after two months.

BP is an autoimmune bullous dermatosis clinically characterized by large, tense bubbles resting on erythematous skin and, histopathologically, by subepidermal bubbles with an eosinophilic infiltrate. Immunohistochemically, there are immunoglobulin (Ig) G and C3 deposits in the basal membrane of the epidermis. The initiating factor for the development of BP antibodies is not fully understood. Several studies have revealed the association of BP with neurological

disorders such as stroke, dementia, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy. The risk of association is greater if the neurological disorder is in a well-developed state [1-3]. However, the exact mechanism



Figure 1a: Localized erosions on the paralyzed side of the body, without urticarial or bullous lesions.



Figure 1b: Localized erosions on the paralyzed side of the body, without urticarial or bullous lesions.

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Figure 1c: Localized erosions on the paralyzed side of the body, without urticarial or bullous lesions.

of this phenomenon remains an enigma. It might be explained by a decrease in blood in the paralyzed side with altered neurological functions associated with a defect in the contraction of the muscles or it might be an adverse effect from the drugs used for neurological diseases [4]. Further studies are needed to better support this causal link.

Keep in mind the diagnosis of BP in patients with chronic neurological diseases if faced with a bubble or erosive lesion.

Consent

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

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms, in which the patients gave their consent for images and other clinical information to be included in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due effort will be made to conceal their identity, but that anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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