

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### VARIED FORMS OF LUPUS VULGARIS

*K Anandam, K Seethamma, K Venkateswarlu, KM Adithya Sharma*

Two unusual forms of lupus vulgaris affecting the perinasal skin are reported. One presented with mutilating type of lupus vulgaris while the other had vegetative type

**Key words:** Lupus vulgaris, Tuberculosis

#### Introduction

Lupus vulgaris of skin can be a primary or secondary manifestation of tuberculosis. Though the common type is plaque type, rarely mutilating and vegetative forms also are found. The present report is of such manifestations in 2 patients.

#### Case Reports

##### Case No:1

A 15-year-old male patient presented with scaly and vegetating type of lesions around the mouth and ala nasi. The condition started around the tip of the nose at the age of one year (Fig.1). Simultaneously there was discharge per nose. The condition gradually spread to involve the lower part of nose and perioral regions. On examination there were vegetating type of lesions around the mouth, and also on the lower part of the nose. There was perforation of cartilaginous portion of nasal septum. All other systems were normal. Routine investigations on blood were normal

From the Department of Dermatology and Department of Infectious Diseases, Kurnool Medical College Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, India

**Address Correspondence to:**  
**Dr. K. Anandan**

except a raised ESR (60mm first h). Blood VDRL was non-reactive. X-ray chest, and barium meal x-rays of the intestine were normal. Mantoux test was strongly positive. Histopathological examination of the bit from the lesion showed the typical changes of tuberculosis.



**Fig.1. Vegetative type of lupus vulgaris**

##### Case No:2

A 46-year-old male patient presented with the complaints of ulceration of the upper lip and deformity of the nose and loss of all teeth (Fig.2). The condition first started as bleeding per nose 2 years ago and later spread to involve the nose and the area between

nose and upper lip. On examination there was ulceration of nose and skin below the nose. All teeth were lost. Nasal septum was deformed but not perforated. On investigations it was found that ESR was 70 mm/1st hour and VDRL was non-reactive. Biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of tuberculosis. There was no evidence of tuberculosis any where else.



Fig.2. Mutilating type of lupus vulgaris

## Discussion

Usually tuberculosis around the mouth and nose is associated with tuberculosis of

lungs or gastrointestinal system. Here in these two cases there was no evidence of that. Consequently it must be considered that the patients suffered from lupus vulgaris of skin only. The first case was that of vegetating type while the second one was mutilating or destructive type as there was scaling and crusting and hypertrophy in the first case, and atrophy with ulceration in the second. However, the margin between the two types may be blurred and vegetating can go into mutilating type, over a course of time.

Though it is generally thought that lupus vulgaris can be either primary or re-infectious types<sup>1</sup> in India it is generally re-infectious type only.

## References

1. Ramesh V, Misra RS, Jain RK. Secondary tuberculosis of skin: clinical features and problems in diagnosis, *Int J Dermatol*, 1987;26:578-581.