

GENERALIZED ACUTE MUCOCUTANEOUS HERPES SIMPLEX

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A case of generalized acute mucocutaneous herpes simplex is reported in a 15 years old boy. There was neither underlying disease nor any evidence of genetic or acquired immune deficiency.

Key Words : Herpes simplex, Mucocutaneous, Generalised acute

Introduction

Herpes simplex usually remains localized to certain body regions usually around mouth, genitalia, eyes and small areas of skin. A rare presentation of herpes simplex is rapid progression to varicelliform eruption simulating lesions of chickenpox in patients who have no preexisting skin disease;¹ rarely death can occur without visceral lesion.²

We report a patient of Herpes simplex orofacialis which rapidly disseminated into varicella like eruption.

Case Report

A 14-years-old male was admitted in dermatology ward with vesicles around mucocutaneous junctions. Grouped vesicles on an erythematous base were present on both lips, around mouth, nose and eyes. There were painful red erosions on buccal mucosa, palate, tongue and pharynx. No systemic abnormality was detected.

History of repeated bacterial or fungal infections in patient or in family was absent. There was no evidence of any immune deficiency in the patient.

Routine investigations were within normal range. Tzanck smear from the floor of the bulla showed many multinucleate acantholytic baloon cells.

After 2 days, patient developed fever and discrete vesicular eruptions appeared on back, trunk and thighs. The lesions were on inflamed base and umblicated in the centre. Tzanck smear from the base of vesicle again showed multinucleated acantholytic baloon cells.

Patient was put on topical and oral Acyclovir 200 mg 5 times a day. On 3 days the disseminated vesicles started regressing. Fever disappeared. Oral therapy was stopped after 5 days. Complete recovery occurred after 2 weeks of topical and supportive therapy.

Comments

Long et al reported 8 cases of varicella like eruption due to herpes simplex outbreak in which 7 were having underlying diseases like Hodgkins disease, Leukemia, SLE etc and only 1 case was without any underlying disease.³ Similarly our patient also did not show any underlying disease, immune deficiency or malignancy.

To the best of our knowledge this is the first case report of generalized acute mucocutaneous herpes simplex from India.

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References

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