

Aggressive calciphylaxis in end-stage renal disease after a failed kidney allograft



Figure 1: (a) Purple, firm, subcutaneous, indurated plaques with superficial skin breakdown with black eschar on right medial thigh. (b) X-ray of right thigh demonstrating extensive vascular calcification and soft tissue calcification (arrow)

A 71-year-old woman with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) after a failed kidney transplant presented with painful wounds on her right thigh over the last 4 months. Physical examination revealed purple, firm, subcutaneous, indurated plaques with superficial skin breakdown with black eschar on her right medial thigh [Figure 1a]. X-ray of her right thigh demonstrated extensive vascular calcification and soft tissue calcification [Figure 1b]. A skin biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of calciphylaxis. Her treatment included sodium thiosulfate, tissue plasminogen activator administration, aggressive dialysis, and wound debridement with hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Unfortunately, she passed away after palliative care.

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