RECURRENT ERYTHEMA MULTIFORME ASSOCIATED WITH MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

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Background and Aims

Erythema multiforme is an acute, self-limited, and sometimes recurrent skin condition characterized by “target” lesions.

The etiological factors are various but infections and drugs can play an important role. The most common infections are herpes simplex virus types 1, 2 and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

Clinical case

Case report. A 5-year-old boy reported with complains of recurrent rashes. At the admission, the child showed specific target lesions on the back of hands and in the palms, on the second day the lesions spread along the limbs towards the trunk.

This was the fifth episode of rash in the past year. Beside this, it was known that the child had a history of recurrent respiratory infections in the past year.

A serological test for respiratory infections was performed and a positive result for IgM and IgG *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* was detected.

A diagnosis of erythema multiforme minor induce by *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infections was established.

After supportive treatment with macrolides and antihistamines, the child’s condition has improved rapidly. During the next year, neither skin rash nor respiratory recurrence repeated.

Conclusion

Erythema multiforme (EM) is an acute, immune-mediated condition characterized by distinctive target lesions of the skin and often accompanied by ulcers or bullae involving the oral, genital, or ocular mucosa.

Erythema multiforme affects mostly young adults, but can also appear in children.

In patients presenting with atypical target lesions *M pneumoniae* should be suspected the more so because the incidence of respiratory infections due to *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is common in this age.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is an important and highly relevant cause of bullous erythema multiforme, isolated mucositis, and Stevens-Johnson syndrome in children.

Bibliography

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