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Successful Treatment of Pyoderma Vegetans with Lymecycline: First Case Report

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Introduction & Objectives:

Pyoderma vegetans (PV) is a rare inflammatory dermatosis with unclear etiology, lacking standardized treatment protocols, which may be attributable to its infrequency. This case report aims to present a patient with facial pyoderma vegetans who responded favorably to lymecycline, highlighting its potential as a novel therapeutic option.

Case Report:

A 69-year-old man with a history of asthma and well-controlled type 2 diabetes presented with an atypical facial dermatosis. Clinical examination revealed a well-defined infiltrating vegetating plaque covering the nose and left cheek, with complete erosion of the left upper eyelid.

A skin biopsy from the left cheek, examined microscopically, showed pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia and a neutrophilic inflammatory infiltrate.

Treatment with lymecycline was initiated at 300 mg/day for 4 months, followed by a reduction to 150 mg/day, then stopped at 6 months.

Discussion:

Pyoderma vegetans manifests as a vegetating inflammatory reaction, primarily in immunocompromised patients, although it can occur in immunocompetent individuals.

The skin lesions, typically vesiculopustular, exudative, and vegetating, are often located on the face, scalp, axillae, genital organs.

Histologically, PV is characterized by pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia and intra- or subepidermal microabscesses with neutrophils or eosinophils.

There are no standardized treatment recommendations for PV, probably due to its rarity. Systemic corticosteroids are generally the first-line treatment, sometimes associated with steroid-sparing agents. Two cases reported in the literature showed a good response to doxycycline.

In our case, lymecycline, used for the first time in the literature for PV, led to a remarkable clinical response. Initial regression of the lesion was observed at 2 months, followed by complete resolution at 6 months. Six months after discontinuing treatment, no recurrence was observed.

Conclusion:

This case report highlights the potential of lymecycline in the treatment of pyoderma vegetans, constituting, to our knowledge, the first documented case of successful treatment with this antibiotic. Further studies are needed to validate these results.