CASE REPORT

RESOLUTION OF CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS AFTER ACUTE ECZEMA DUE TO INTRALESIONAL MEGLUMINE ANTIMONIATE

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SUMMARY

We report a case of a 42 year-old female, who came to a leishmaniasis reference center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, presenting a cutaneous leishmaniasis lesion in the right forearm. Treatment with low-dose intramuscular meglumine antimoniate (MA) (5 mg Sb\(^{5+}\)/kg/day) was initiated, with improvement after 28 days, although with the development of generalized eczema. After 87 days, the lesion worsened. Patient refused treatment with amphotericin B. MA was then infiltrated in the lesion, in two sessions, resulting in local eczema; however, twenty days after, both the ulcer and eczema receded. Intralesional administration of MA should be used carefully when previous cutaneous hypersensitivity is detected.

KEYWORDS: Cutaneous leishmaniasis; Therapy; Intralesional; Meglumine antimoniate; Eczema.

CASE REPORT

American tegumentary leishmaniasis (ATL) is an infectious disease caused by protozoa of Leishmania genus, transmitted by female sandflies (Phlebotominae). Few medications are efficient in its treatment, among them meglumine antimoniate (MA). Due to the difficulties linked to the administration of MA, less toxic alternative therapies with low doses or intralesional injections (IL) of MA have been studied\(^{5,6}\). We report a case of a patient who presented resolution of cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) after development of acute eczema in the site of the injection of MA.

A 42 year-old white female, who signed a free informed consent form, came to the Leishmaniasis Surveillance Laboratory, Evandro Chagas Clinical Research Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, presenting a CL lesion in the right forearm for 45 days. Imprint of the lesion showed amastigotes parasites, and Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis was identified from the culture of a fragment of the lesion obtained through biopsy. Mucosal lesions were not seen in fiberoptic otorhinolaryngological examination of the upper airways and digestive tract. Treatment with low-dose intramuscular (IM) MA - 5 mg Sb\(^{5+}\) per kilogram per day - was initiated (Aventis, São Paulo, Brazil). After a 28-day treatment, she improved. However, she presented generalized eczema, treated with oral dexchlorpheniramine and dexamethasone ointment. After 87 days, the ulcer worsened (Fig. 1A). The second choice drug, amphotericin B desoxycolate, was offered to the patient, but she refused to be hospitalized and reported difficulties in going to the hospital three times a week to receive the medication in a day-hospital regimen. Alternative drugs such as pentamidine and liposomal amphotericin B were not available. Treatment was started with 7 mL of MA, without any diluents, injected into the lesion edge until its whole base got infiltrated. She developed moderate local eczema. Oral dexchlorpheniramine was prescribed and the ulcer improved. After 13 days, a second IL MA injection was made, with 5 mL of this drug, and the eczema worsened, with bullae formation (Fig. 1B); however, twenty days after, both ulcer and eczema receded (Fig. 1C).

IL way of administration is a viable alternative to systemic MA in older people or in conditions in which systemic treatment is not tolerated, due to its efficacy and infrequent, slight to moderate adverse events\(^{5,6}\). Local therapy was considered unsuitable for the treatment of New World cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by L. (V.) braziliensis or L. (V.) panamensis because of the potential risk of mucosal metastasis; however, as systemic treatment does not guarantee prevention of later mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, which is found in less than 5% of the cases, local treatments should be explored. It is now considered acceptable to use local therapy in selected cases of New World cutaneous leishmaniasis. The World Health Organization states that in patients with mild disease or with comorbid conditions, treatments safer than systemic therapy should be preferred, even if the level of evidence for efficacy is weak\(^{7}\).
Resolução de leishmaniose cutânea após eczema agudo devido a antimoniato de meglumina intralesional.

Relatamos caso de paciente de 42 anos atendida em centro de referência em leishmanioses no Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, apresentando lesão de leishmaniose cutânea no antebraço direito. Iniciado tratamento com baixa dose de antimoniato de meglumina (AM) intramuscular (5 mg Sb\(^{123}/\text{kg/dia}\)), houve melhora após 28 dias, porém com desenvolvimento de eczema generalizado. Após 87 dias, notou-se piora da lesão. A paciente recusou o tratamento com anfotericina B. Infiltrou-se AM na lesão em duas sessões, resultando em eczema local com bolhas. Entretanto, 20 dias depois, tanto a úlcera quanto o eczema regrediram. A administração intralesional do AM deve ser utilizada com cautela em pacientes com hipersensibilidade cutânea a este fármaco.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest regarding any of the authors.

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Érica de Camargo Ferreira e Vasconcellos: literature search, data collection, figures, writing. Maria Inês Fernandes Pimentel: literature search, data collection, figures, writing. Cláudia Maria Valete-Rosalino: patient assistance (otorhinolaryngological), writing. Maria de Fátima Madeira: patient assistance (laboratorial diagnosis and species characterization), writing. Armando de Oliveira Schubach: literature search, figures, patient assistance (dermatological), writing.

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