



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

ATYPICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS: A CASE SERIES OF SEVEN PATIENTS

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Background: Tuberculosis (TB) is an ancient infectious disease affecting people worldwide. India has the high burden of both TB and MDR TB cases accounting for around a quarter of global load. Cutaneous TB occurs in a small proportion (1%- 2%) of all cases of TB. With India having huge number of TB cases, cutaneous involvement is also expectedly not so uncommon leading to significant case load of cutaneous TB. These cutaneous TB patients many times have atypical presentations resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment, thus leading to overall increased morbidity. With our small series of 7 patients we intend to discuss atypical manifestations of cutaneous tuberculosis.

Observation: This case series describes seven cases who presented with atypical manifestations of cutaneous tuberculosis, confirmed mainly by histopathological changes and response to antitubercular therapy. Out of 7 cases 6 patient had single foci of infection, (3 on face, one on forearm, one on palm and one on sole), and 1 patient had 3 lesions. Though diagnosis was lupus vulgaris in 5 cases, scrofuloderma in one and tuberculosis verrucosa cutis in one, the morphology was atypical and rare in all. Histopathology from all of these lesions showed epithelioid cell granulomas and special stain for acid fast bacilli was negative. All of the patients had good response to antitubercular therapy, five have completed the treatment with residual scarring and two patients are still on ATT.

Key message: cutaneous tuberculosis is still intriguing us with its myriad of clinical presentation and clinical suspicion should be high especially in endemic areas. This will help in early treatment and reducing overall morbidity.

