



PRURITUS

CHRONIC PRURITUS REVEALING A MULTIPLE MYELOMA

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Background: Chronic Pruritus represents a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. Paraneoplastic chronic pruritus rarely reveals malignant monoclonal dysglobulinemia (Myeloma, Waldenstrom disease). We report the case of a 75-year-old man with chronic and generalized pruritus.

Observation: A 75-year-old man with a history of treated tuberculosis consulted for chronic and generalized pruritus. This symptomatology evolved for 5 months without associated skin lesions. Biological investigations revealed an unexplained inflammatory syndrome. A second series of biological and radiological examinations revealed multiple myeloma. The patient was treated with chemotherapy. After the courses of chemotherapy, a clear regression of pruritus was noted.

Key message: Multiple Myeloma is a treatable but incurable blood cancer due to an abnormal proliferation of tumor plasmocytes in the hematopoietic bone marrow. The most common symptoms are bone pain, weakness, fatigue and weight loss. Malignant monoclonal gammopathies are associated with several cutaneous manifestations, but the association with isolated pruritus is exceptionally reported. Erskine et al. reported in 1977 the first two cases of multiple myeloma associated with pruritus and since very few cases have been reported in the literature. In a study established in the department of dermatology of Sousse, Tunisia between 2006 and 2014: a neoplastic cause of chronic pruritus was revealed in 5 patients (12.5%): 2 cases of myeloma, one case of myeloproliferative syndrome.

