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PYODERMA GANGRENOSUM: REPORT OF A CASE INVOLVING THE BREAST

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Background: Pyoderma gangrenosum (PG) is an inflammatory, ulcerative skin disorder characterized at histopathology by the presence of neutrophils in the skin. The disease is a rare but serious ulcerating skin disease, the treatment of which is mostly empirical. The condition may either develop spontaneously or in association with surgical trauma or systemic or neoplastic diseases. Pyoderma can present to a variety of health professionals and several variants exist that may not be recognized immediately. This can delay the diagnosis and have serious clinical consequences. Clinical presentation varies, but is basically characterized by ulcerated, painful, dark red or purple skin lesions with irregular, inflamed and raised borders and a necrotic base, with single or multiple small abscesses. The mainstay of treatment is long term immunosuppression, often with high doses of corticosteroids or low doses of ciclosporin. Recently, good outcomes have been reported for treatments based on anti-tumour necrosis factor α , and infliximab proved effective in a randomized controlled trial.

Case report: This report refers to a female patient who was 54 years old and that was seen in Perola Byington Hospital. She presented with spontaneous pyoderma gangrenosum and the lesions were seen on her right breast, left axilla, left eyelid and chin. She was submitted to a skin biopsy in 07/06/2017: chronic non-specific inflammatory disease. After the clinical and pathologic result, the hypothesis of PG was made, and she received systemic corticosteroids with prednisone 60 mg once a day orally for 30 days and after that more 90 days with prednisone 40mg. She had responded very well, and the lesions disappeared after 4 months. **Discussion:** The clinical course of pyoderma gangrenosum can be unpredictable and highly variable from onset and throughout progression of the condition; hence diagnosis of this pathology may constitute a challenge. Many patients develop painful lesions that grow progressively, accompanied by fever. In others, lesions are chronic, with ulcerations that progress slowly. Pathogenesis remains to be fully clarified. Since diagnosis is reached exclusively on the basis of clinical characteristics, it is very important to take this disease into consideration when evaluating differential diagnoses.