

Single Case

The Rare Case of Pemphigus Vegetans in Association with Malnutrition Children in the Multidisciplinary Management

Oki Suwarsa Endang Sutedja Hartati Purbo Dharmadji
Pramita Kusuma July Rahardja Reti Hindritiani Hendra Gunawan

Division of Allergy-Immunology, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran – Dr. Hasan Sadikin Hospital, Bandung, Indonesia

Keywords

Autoimmune disease · Malnutrition · Pemphigus vegetans

Abstract

Pemphigus vegetans is a clinical variant of pemphigus vulgaris, accounting for 1–2% of all very rare pemphigus cases in children. The involvement of the oral mucosa in this disease is usually accompanied by severe pain that aggravates the patient's malnourished condition. Conversely, malnutrition may also reduce vulnerability towards autoimmune diseases. Although pemphigus vegetans has never been reported to develop in a child with marasmus before, we encountered a case of pemphigus vegetans in a severely malnourished patient. A 12-year-old boy in marasmic condition presented with painful, clear, fluid-filled blisters, accompanied by erosions, crusts, and vegetative lesions on almost all parts of the body. Histopathological examination of the lesions revealed a suprabasal cleft, and direct immunofluorescence staining showed deposits of immunoglobulin G in the epidermal intracellular spaces. The patient was treated with a multidisciplinary approach, and intravenous corticosteroid was administered for 2 weeks with an appropriate diet. There were significant improvements in the skin lesions and his nutritional status. Although pemphigus vegetans may occur in children with malnutrition, the underlying mechanism for the development of autoimmune diseases in malnutrition remains unclear.

© 2017 The Author(s)
Published by S. Karger AG, Basel

KARGER

Oki Suwarsa
Division of Allergy-Immunology, Department of Dermatology and Venereology
Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran – Dr. Hasan Sadikin Hospital
Jl. Pasteur No. 38, Bandung 40161 (Indonesia)
E-Mail okispkk@yahoo.co.id