Bazex Acrokeratosis as a Paraneoplastic Syndrome

Acroqueratosis de Bazex como síndrome paraneoplásico

Jaime Villares-Soriano,∗ Carlos Vázquez-Barro, José Martínez-Vidal

Servicio de Otorrinolaringología, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario, A Coruña, Spain

Bazex acrokeratosis is a set of pathological signs and symptoms that involve a predominantly acral psoriasiform dermatosis. It appears as a paraneoplastic syndrome associated with cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract or the cervicomediatstinal area and can even appear before the tumour pathology.

We present the case of a 67-year-old male, who smoked 60 cigarettes/day, with hyperkeratotic skin lesions on both hands and elbows that had been present for 2 months (Figs. 1 and 2). The patient also reported referred earache in the right ear and dysphonia. The ENT examination revealed the existence of a mass in the right pyriform sinus with a 70% decrease of the airway. A CAT scan showed a mass in the right pyriform sinus (Fig. 3).

Figure 1 Skin lesions on both hands.

Figure 2 Skin lesions on the right elbow.

Figure 3 Mass in the right pyriform sinus.

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: jaimevillares@gmail.com (J. Villares-Soriano).


© 2012 Elsevier España, S.L. All rights reserved.
and pathology confirmed the existence of an epidermoid carcinoma. Following extirpation of the tumour, the dermatological symptoms subsided.

The appearance of lesions concordant with Bazex acrokeratosis makes it necessary to rule out the existence of a tumoural pathology in the upper aerodigestive tract and or the cervicomedialstinal area. Frequently, there is no tumoural pathology yet at the time of the dermatological diagnosis; the literature indicates that in up to 70% of the cases the acrokeratosis precedes the neoplastic symptoms. In our case, the dermatological signs and symptoms, coinciding with the incipient voice disorder and shortness of breath, led us to suspect the existence of a cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract, which was later confirmed.