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KIKUCHI DISEASE: REPORT OF A CASE STUDY AND REVIEW OF CASES IN TURKEY UP TO THE PRESENT

Mehmet Yildiz, Ozlem Cakir
Second Department of Internal Medicine
Diskapi Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

BACKGROUND: Kikuchi Fujimoto Disease (KFD) is a rare histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis which has a benign self-limiting clinical course. An abnormal autoimmune reaction has been suggested as its origin and infection is often considered to be an inciting agent. We report a case study and review of cases in Turkey up to the present.

METHODS: The clinical features of 14 cases of Kikuchi's disease diagnosed in Turkey up to now were determined. The cases were identified from pathology records using the search term histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis.

RESULTS: Most of the patients (57%) were young men who presented with cervical lymphadenopathy. The median age was 29 years. There was spontaneous resolution of symptoms within a 6-mounth period in 9 cases. The other 5 patients presented with lymphadenopathy and unusual symptoms. The first patient demonstrated leukocytoclastic vasculitis from erythematous skin lesions and was initially started on steroids. One month after the onset of therapy, his fever and lymphadenopathy had disappeared. The second patient developed infectious mononucleosis from Epstein-Barr virus and the unusual complication was brachial neuritis. Treatment was done using steroids. The third patient had both KFD and Entamoeba histolytica infection. Ornidazole treatment was commenced. The fourth patient was pregnant when KFD manifested; therefore, steroid therapy was given. In the last patient, KFD was accompanied by chronic renal failure.

Excision biopsy of the affected lymph node was the diagnostic method of choice.

CONCLUSION: Kikuchi's disease is not common in the Turkish population. More recently, the disease has been reported throughout the world and in all races. Establishing an early diagnosis is crucial since the clinical presentation can mimic tuberculous lymphadenitis or malignant lymphoma.

Key Words: histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenitis, Kikuchi's disease, lymphadenopathy