

A CASE OF ROSACEA ASSOCIATED WITH KERATITIS IN 7 YEARS OLD GIRL

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SUMMARY

Rosacea is a common cutaneous disorder, that usually attacks between age 40 and 60 years. It is characterized by redness, bumps, pimples. Rosacea usually occurs on the face and rare cases is associated with mild ocular involvement in child population.

Key words: Rosacea, Keratitis, Azitromycin

The clinical form "ocular Rosacea" includes various ocular and and palpebral disorders such as dysfunction of the Meibomian glands - hordeolums, chalazions and blepharitis. Teleangiectasias are often seen on the eyelash edge, but in some cases serious disorders of cornea could be seen.

The disease is usually bilateral, as in most cases ocular Rosacea is diagnosed after the cutaneous symptoms, but in about 20% the disorders of eyelids and cornea precede the typical cutaneous symptoms (6).

A case of 7 year old girl is presented. The patient has been diagnosed with recurrent chalazions and hordeolums since 4 years of age. Six months ago a new chalazion has been diagnosed, being on the upper right eyelid. With the symptoms of photophobia, lacrimation, a sense of foreign substance and reduced vision of both eyes.

Two weeks before that symptoms of cutaneous involvement have been diagnosed: erythematous skin of the nose and cheeks and disseminated papulo-pustules, accompanied with discomfort and exacerbation in sun exposure.

From the ophthalmological status:

The objective study finds VOD=0,5; VOS=0,4; expressed perilimbal injection of both eyes, a chalazion on the right upper eyelid.

From the dermatological status:

Symmetrical erythema of the cheeks and nose with disseminated papules and pustules a few number teleangiectasias.

Bio-microscopic study:

Moderate dilatation of Meibomian glands of both eyes has been found.

Right eye: a few numbers of pinpoint erosions of corneal epithelium, localized in the lower one-third of the cornea.

The left eye: superficial subepithelial infiltrates, not affecting the stroma in the lower two-thirds of cornea with superficial peripheral vascularization of cornea between 5-7 h, 1mm from limbus.

The patient received systematic treatment with Azitromycin 0,250 mg - three times a week for a period of eight weeks.

The ocular treatment included Fucithalamic gel (fusidic acid 1%) one month and Fluoromethalone acetate 0.1% collyr, added at the tenth day from the beginning of therapy.

One month later good results have been found - regress of the symptoms of keratitis, with full epithelization of right eye cornea.

Left eye has shown a regress of pathological vascularization to limbus.

The visual status has changed as follows: VOD=0,8; VOS=0, 6.

The cutaneous erythema has faded away, papules and pustules have been resorbed. The skin was normal.

DISCUSSION

1. The age peak of Rosacea is between the third and the fifth decade of life and the disease is not typical for infants. A few authors report cases of Rosacea between age of 3 to 14 years: E. Bourrat (1), S. Erzurum (5), S. Nazir (9), M. Chamailard (4), J. Cehajic-Kapetanovic (3), N. Mavrakanas (8).
2. The case we report is a rare dermatosis in children under 10-years of age. According to some authors ocular complications develop in 6-18% (7) to 25% (6) of the patients, but other authors (3) report for higher frequency (50-60%) of eye events in adult patients with Rosacea.

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Before therapy



After therapy

3. In the case we report both eyes are affected but with different pathological changes - of the cornea and eyelid. The initial ocular disorders - recurrent blepharitis, hordeolums and chalazions of both eyes, appear at four year of age of the patient and precede with three years the cutaneous manifestations. The presence of cutaneous eruptions coincides with the recurrent blepharoconjunctivitis of both eyes.
4. The provided systematic therapy - Azithromycin 0,250 mg - three times a week for a period of eight weeks, led to reduction of the skin lesions and proved favorable therapeutic effect and the ocular disorders.
5. Many authors (5,8,9) suggest that children with chronic peripheral ocular disorders with or without cutaneous manifestations could be suspicious for Rosacea and consult with a dermatologist is very important for correct diagnosis, and proper treatment.

CONCLUSION

The presence of symptoms of dysfunction of Meibomian glands - hordeolums, chalazions and front blefaritis in children could be preceding signs for a possible association with Rosacea.

Frequent recurrence of ocular symptoms could complicate in affecting the cornea and reduction of visual acuity.

Azithromycin 0,250 mg 3 times weekly for 8 weeks could be recommended as a means of choice because of the limited therapeutic option of the group of tetracyclines in children.

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