

Paediatric Behcet's Disease Masquerading Common Dermatological Lesions in Emergency Department

Ahmad Sae'dan Idris¹, Mohd Anizan Aziz¹, Muhammad Khidir¹
¹Emergency and Trauma Department, Teluk Intan Hospital, Perak

No 124

INTRODUCTION

Behcet's disease (BD) is a chronic relapsing occlusive vasculitis of unknown aetiology, characterized by oral aphthosis, genital ulcerations and uveitis. BD is more prevalent in Mediterranean, Middle East and Japan, however, remains rare in Malaysia. In emergency department, these symptoms can be mistaken for other common illnesses resulting delay in diagnosis and treatment.



CASE DESCRIPTION

A 12-year-old Indian boy exhibited swelling of the lips, painful oral ulcers, bilateral conjunctival injection with serous discharge, and penile edema accompanied by vesicular rashes. He had a four-day history of fever along with upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) symptoms. This represented his second visit to the emergency department, having previously been diagnosed with hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) and discharged with symptomatic care. Clinical evaluation indicated lethargy and mild dehydration. Systemic examination revealed swollen lips with multiple ulcers and serous discharge. Conjunctival examination showed injection without hypopyon or ulcers. Genital examination indicated a swollen and tender glans penis with erythema, but no urethral discharge was observed. Blood tests were generally normal, except for an elevated C-reactive protein level of 89.1. He was subsequently admitted to the medical ward for further workup and treatment.

DISCUSSION

Numerous classification criteria have been established for Behcet's Disease (BD) diagnosis, largely targeting adults and focusing on major and minor clinical features such as those from the International Study Group (ISG) and the revised International Criteria for Behcet's Disease (ICBD). Nevertheless, paediatric BD poses diagnostic difficulties due to its rarity and the absence of validated criteria specific to this demographic. The clinical presentations in children frequently diverge from those in adults, leading to possible misdiagnosis or delayed identification and treatment.



CONCLUSION

BD is a rare but complex disorder with significant diagnostic challenges, particularly in paediatric population. Further research is needed to establish standardized paediatric diagnostic criteria and optimal treatment.

KEYWORDS

Behcet's disease, paediatric, genital ulcer, uveitis.

[1] Afira, Wan Ahmad Kamal Wan Syameen, Min Moon Tang, and Suganthi Thevarajah. "Behcet's Disease: A Case Series of 5 Patients in the Department of Dermatology, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia." *Notice to Authors* (2017): 72.