

Case Report

Pyogenic granuloma after burns: a case report and review of the literature

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Abstract: Pyogenic granuloma (PG) is a benign vascular proliferative tumor of the skin and mucous membranes, it can appear spontaneously or following triggering factors. Different clinical aspects are described, pyogenic granulomas following burns (GB) are rare. We report a case of post-burn pyogenic granuloma confirmed by histological study and treated surgically. This new observation will allow us to further clarify this condition.

Keywords: Pyogenic granuloma, burn

Introduction

Pyogenic granuloma (PG) is a benign vascular proliferative tumor of the skin and mucous membranes [1, 2], first described by Poncet and Dor in 1897 [3]. Several denominations are used to describe it (**Table 1**) [2]. Post-burn pyogenic granulomas (PBG) are quite rare: they often occur after a second-degree burn. Their diagnosis is essentially clinical in children. In adults, other tumors may mimic PGB, mainly Kaposi's sarcoma, angiosarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma [4]. We report a new case of multiple post-burn GP treated surgically.

Case report

A 9-month-old girl consulted for skin tumors of the abdomen that had evolved 10 days earlier, following superficial second-degree scalding burns. On clinical examination, the child presents with 2 limited exophytic sessile ulcerated lesions, bleeding at touch, located on a pink atrophic burn scar. The diagnosis of localized post-burn eruptive PG was made and confirmed histologically after full-thickness surgical excision (**Figure 1**) and primary closure (**Figure 2**). No microbiological study was done before surgery, there was no clinical infection.

Discussion

GP represents 0.5% of cutaneous nodules in children. It can be cutaneomucosal or visceral, single or multiple [4]. Various factors are incriminated in its occurrence: increased levels of female sex hormones; inflammatory diseases; infections and medications [1-3, 5].

Pyogenic granulomas following burns (PGB) are different from classic pyogenic granulomas [4-9]:

- PGB patients have an initial burn.
- Most PGBs develop an acute eruption between 1 and 4 weeks after the burn.
- PGBs may be infected by bacteria, fungi and viruses.
- PGBs have three main histological characteristics: hyperkeratosis, numerous newly formed proliferative vascularizations, and edematous stromata with inflammatory and plasma cells.

Infectious agents may also play the role of a secondary stimulus in the initiation of PGBs, several germs have been found in patients with PGBs [6, 10]. Burn patients are easily superinfected, however, the reasons why only few

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Table 1. Nomenclature of pyogenic granuloma [2]

Name
Botryomycosis hominis
Granuloma telangiectodes
Granuloma pediculatum benignum
Granuloma telangiectaticum pediculatum
Pseudobotryomycosis
Granuloma telangiectaticum
Granuloma pyogenicum
Fibroangioma
Hartzell disease
Bloody wart
Septic granuloma
Hemangiomatous granuloma
Lobular capillary hemangioma
Eruptive capillary hemangioma

patients develop PGB are unclear.

Different treatments are used including conservative treatment, which is usually different from that of classical pyogenic granuloma (therapeutic abstention with oral antibiotic therapy: erythromycin 40 mg/kg): electrocoagulation, cryotherapy, laser, shaving, surgery [2, 10].

Because PGBs can involve the reticular dermis, pulsed dye lasers, cauterization, and shaving may not be able to reach the total PG, and these modalities have a 43.5% recurrence rate [2]. Definitive treatment requires full-thickness skin excision [10].

Only 29 cases of PGB have been reported in the literature [6, 11, 12]. Most often, lesions appear 1 to 4 weeks after the occurrence of second-degree thermal burns by mostly hot liquids (Table 2).

Nineteen of the 29 cases were children under 9 years old, with a slight female predominance (sex ratio: 0.93).

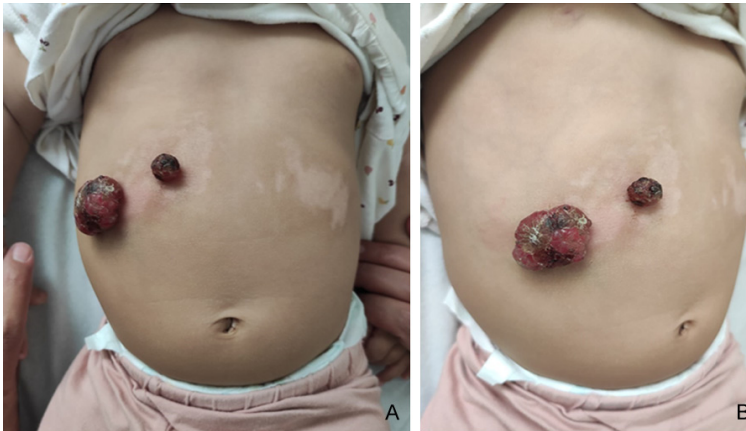


Figure 1. Postburn pyogenic granuloma of the abdomen before treatment. A: Front view, B: 3/4 view.

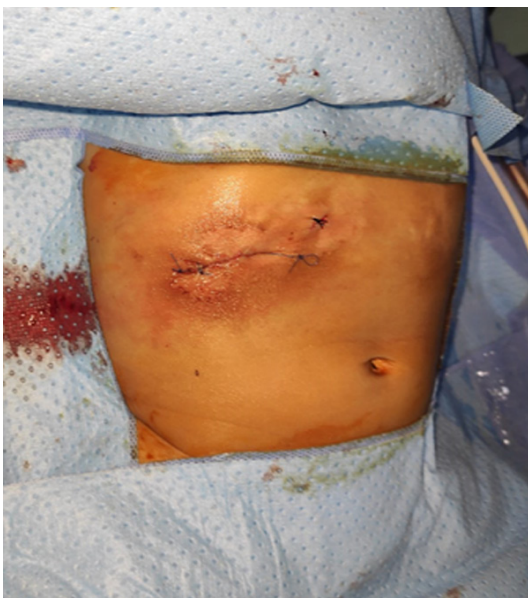


Figure 2. Surgical treatment by excision and suture in 2 planes.

The geographical origin of the reported cases may be of interest. No case has been described in Europe or North America. On the other hand, 8 cases out of 29 have been described in China, 7 in Iran, and 6 in Turkey.

The treatment choice depended on several factors, especially the location and the number of lesions. 27.5% of the patients reported (8/29) had surgical excision, 65.5% (19/29) had conservative treatment, and 10.3% (3/29) regressed spontaneously (Table 3).

In our patient, the epidemiologic and clinical features are similar to the cases reported in the literature. The choice of surgical treatment was made in view of the local skin laxity and the possibility of primary closure without major scarring. This one-time treatment was preferred to other modalities: laser, coagulation, antibiotic therapy, etc., for the rapidity of the

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Table 2. General data on post-burn pyogenic granuloma

Authors	Origin country	cases	Age/sex	Burn agent	Depth of burns	Appear time after burns
De kaminsky et al. [6] (1978)	Argentiae	1	15 month/F	Boiling milk	2	1 week
Momeni et al. [7] (1995)	Iran	3	1, 5 year/M	Boiling milk Boiling milk	2 and 3	2 weeks
			5 years/F	Boiling milk	2	2 weeks
			35 years/F		2	2 weeks
Ceyhan et al. [8] (1997)	Turkey	1	18 month/F	Boiling milk	2	1 week
Liao et al. [13] (2006)	China	2	41 years/M	Boiling water	2	20 days
			19 years/M	Boiling water	2	9 days
Aliağaoğlu et al. [14] (2006)	Turkey	1	5 years/F	Not mentioned	2	2 weeks
Bozkurt et al. [15] (2006)	Turkey	1	2 years/M	Boiling milk	2	8 weeks
Diallo et al. [16] (2006)	Senegal	3	8 month	Thermal burn	2	Not mentioned
			13 month		2	Not mentioned
			13 years		2	Not mentioned
Ceyhan et al. [17] (2007)	Turkey	1	17 month/M	Boiling water	2	2 weeks
Shirol et al. [18] (2012)	india	1	42 ans/F	Not mentioned	2	1 year
Durgun et al. [9] (2013)	Turkey	2	18 month/F	Boiling milk Boiling milk	2	29 days
			7 years/M		2	2 weeks
Zhao et al. [11] (2015)	China	5	4 years/M	Thermal burn	2	Not mentioned
			15 month/M		2	
			3 years/F		2	
			26 month/F		2	
			2 years/F		2	
Dastgheib et al. [19] (2016)	Iran	1	12 years/M	Boiling milk	2	2 weeks
Xu et al. [20] (2016)	China	1	4 years/F	Boiling Soup	2	30 days
Ashk Torab et al. [21] (2018)	Iran	1	15 month/F	Boiling water	2	10 days
Mansoul et al. [4] (2018)	Algérie	1	3 years/M	Boiling water	2	10 days
Iraji et al. [22] (2021)	Iran	1	30 years/F	Boiling oil	3	4 weeks
Mezdour et al. [12] (2021)	Algeria	2	28 years/M	Petrol	2	20 days
			47 years/F	petrol	2	20 days
Keshavarzi et al. [23] (2021)	Iran	1	49 years/F	Boiling water	deep	2 weeks

Table 3. Treatment of pyogenic granulomas

Authors	Localisation of PGB	Number of lesions	Treatment
De kaminsky et al. [6] (1978)	Face, trunk, arms	Not mentioned	electrocoagulation
Momeni et al. [7] (1995)	Face, neck, back and thigh	28 lesions	Therapeutic abstention
	Abdomen and thigh	65 lesions	Electrocoagulation of 2 lesions + abstention of the rest
	Face	90 lesions	Therapeutic abstention
Ceyhan et al. [8] (1997)	Face, trunk, arms	Not mentioned	Excision + suture
Liao et al. [13] (2006)	Face, left forearm	Non mentionnés	topical antibiotic
	Front, back and upper limb	More than 9 lesions	topical and oral antibiotics
Aliağaoğlu et al. [14] (2006)	arm	2 lesions	Excision + suture
Bozkurt et al. [15] (2006)	Left upper limb	5 lesions	Excision + suture
Diallo et al. [16] (2006)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Therapeutic abstention
Ceyhan et al. [17] (2007)	arm	Multiple lesions	Oral antibiotic
Shirol et al. [18] (2012)	chin	1 lesion	Excision + graft
Durgun et al. [9] (2013)	Face and neck	Multiple lesions	Excision + suture
	forearm	7 confluent lesions	Excision + total skin graft
Zhao et al. [11] (2015)	Face and neck	Multiple lesions	antibiotic
	Arm and handbras		
	Back and buttocks		
	hand		
Dastgheib et al. [19] (2016)	Lower limbs	Multiple lesions	No follow up
Xu et al. [20] (2016)	Left arm and elbow	Multiple lesions	Chinese herbal medicine
Ashk Torab et al. [21] (2018)	Back	Multiple lesions	Plant application
Mansoul et al. [4] (2018)	Left buttock	6 lesions	Topical beta-blocker
Iraji et al. [22] (2021)	forearm	Multiple lesions	Antibiotic + excision + electrocoagulation
Mezdour et al. [12] (2021)	Left forearm	Multiple lesions	Topical beta-blocker
		Less extensive	Topical beta-blocker
Keshavarzi et al. [23] (2021)	hand	Not mentioned	Excision + thin skin graft

result. No recurrence evolved at 6 months follow-up.

Conclusion

PGB lesions are benign based on clinical features and histological examinations. Several successful methods have been used to treat pyogenic granuloma but surgery when possible represents the most reliable way of local control.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

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