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Vulvovaginal-Gingival Syndrome (VVGS): a case report

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Background & Aim: Oral lichen planus (OLP) is a chronic, autoimmune disorder of inflammatory condition and unknown etiology. The prevalence of OLP in the world ranges from 0.5 to 2%. The disease affects mostly adult population between 30 and 70 years old. It is more common in women (60-70%). Although the most affected zone is the oral mucosa it may have a plurimucosal manifestation named VulvoVaginal-Gingival Syndrome, characterized by erosion and desquamation of the vulva, vagina and oral cavity. It is a rare manifestation with a prevalence around 1%. Patient diagnosed with VVGS of lichen planus. Over the years she develops tongue cancer and 10 years later vulvar cancer.

Method: Female, 89 years old, no toxic habits.

Medical history: hypothyroidism, hypertension and anxiety depressive disorder. When the subject was 78 years old she suffered from tongue lesions treated as oral thrush, with no improvement. Through biopsy an erosive lichen planus was diagnosed. Three years later she developed lingual carcinoma. Two years later, after surgery, she suffered from node recurrence. At present she is stable of the disease.

Results: in March 2015, after some episodes of dysuria treated as LUTS with no results, an examination of the genital zone was performed showing a vulvar mass. The result of the biopsy was a vulvar cancer on lichen sclerosus et atrophicus. Seven months after surgery she developed node recurrence, her health worsened and now she is in her terminal phase.

Conclusions: Prevalence of VVGS is very low, however, through the years lesions can develop, apart from the oral mucosa, in other mucosae (vulvovaginal). OLP has a malignant transformation potential. That is the reason why we insist on the importance of periodic follow-up of the lesions. Relation with other specialists, dermatologist and gynecologist, is essential due to the presence of the lesions in other mucosae.