

Illustration

Necrotizing Fasciitis: Fatal Evolution of Acral Melanoma

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Necrotizing fasciitis (NF) is a life-threatening soft tissue infection characterized by a rapidly spreading infection of the subcutaneous tissue and in particular the fascia. Early diagnosis and radical surgical debridement are required. Surgery is indicated if NF is clinically suspected and must not be delayed by diagnosis in order to reduce mortality. We report a case of NF following surgery of an acral melanoma.^{1,2}

A 73-year-old patient, with a history of type 2 diabetes with a poor glycemic balance, was diagnosed with acral non meta-static pigmented melanoma of the fifth toe (Figure 1) and underwent surgery to excise the tumor. He was seen 10-days later with a painful and acute red leg along with signs of sepsis (fever, hypotension, tachycardia). Dermatological examination found an ill-limited oedematous erythematous leg with large phlyctenes and necrotic areas extending from the back of the foot to the left leg (Figure 2). Palpation of the leg found crepitus and hypoesthetic zones. The member's X-ray showed an infiltration of the soft parts of the leg

with the presence of air bubbles (Figure 3). As the diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis was highly suspected, the patient underwent surgery (Figure 4) for an discharge aponevrotomy. He died hours later due to a septic shock.

Figure 2. Oedematous Erythematous Leg with Large Phlyctenes and Necrosis



Figure 1. Pigmented Tumor of the Fifth Toe



Figure 3. X-ray of the Leg Showing Air Bubbles



Figure 4. An Intraoperative Picture of the Discharge Aponevrotomy



CONSENT

The authors have received written informed consent from the patient.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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