WEGENER’S GRANULOMATOSIS IN A PATIENT WITH VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY

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Introduction

- Wegener’s granulomatosis is characterized by necrotizing granulomatous vasculitis.
- It occurs initially in a localized form, disseminates in various degrees and particularly involves the respiratory tract and kidneys.
- It is an ANCA-associated vasculitis, a systemic disease of autoimmune aetiology.
- Recently vitamin D deficiency has been associated with the development of autoimmunity.
Aim

The aim was to present a case of Wegener’s granulomatosis in a patient with vitamin D deficiency induced by gastric surgery for the treatment of morbid obesity.
A patient, female aged 47 years, presented with chronic episcleritis, conjunctivitis, retroorbital pain and erythema of the left eye over the course of 2 years.

The patient had had gastric surgery for the treatment of morbid obesity and had also been subjected to thyroidectomy for the treatment of a thyroid nodule.

On clinical examination she had a hemorrhagic rash over the lower extremities and bilateral hearing loss.

Laboratory investigations revealed vitamin D deficiency, 25(OH)D3 levels being 11.7 ng/ml (normal levels >30 ng/ml), microscopic hematuria, proteinuria, and positive c-ANCA.

Imaging studies revealed the presence of nodules in the lungs and signs of left orbital inflammation.
Case Report

- The diagnosis of Wegener’s granulomatosis was made

- Intravenous methylprednisolone pulse therapy was initiated and vitamin D was administered orally with subsequent sustained improvement
Conclusion

- In conclusion, the case of a patient with Wegener’s granulomatosis and vitamin D deficiency after gastric surgery for morbid obesity is presented.
- Vitamin D deficiency is known to be associated with the development of systemic autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Vitamin D deficiency induced by gastric surgery may be implicated in the pathogenesis of a systemic autoimmune disease with ocular manifestations in this patient.