

A rare case of paraneoplastic pemphigus (PNP) associated with breast cancer

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Background

PNP is a rare bullous autoimmune disease associated with an underlying neoplasm, most commonly a hematologic-related neoplasm.

PNP in relation to malignant solid tumors is very rare.

PNP may be a fatal condition.

Patient case

A 71-year-old woman.

First, severe oral ulcerations followed by extensive blistering on the trunk. Clinically, PNP was suspected.

A CT scan followed by mammography revealed tumors in both breasts and pathological lymph nodes in the right axilla. Tumors were biopsied and diagnosed as ductal carcinomas.

Additional histological and serological results confirmed the diagnosis of PNP.



Figure 1: A, B Oral and C, D cutaneous lesions at the time of initial examination E Skin biopsy with intraepithelial blistering

Patient case, continued

The breast carcinomas were surgically excised followed by postoperative radiation therapy.

Mucocutaneous lesions of PNP were treated with prednisolone and methotrexate.

Response to the treatments was good. Currently, the patient is free of both diseases.

Conclusions

The combination of PNP and breast cancer is extremely rare.

Bullous lesions of the oral and lip mucosa may be the first sign of the PNP. With bullous diseases, clinician should consider a possibility of PNP in differential diagnostics.



Figure 2: A, B Resolution of the cutaneous and C, D oral lesions after 14 months. E Direct immunofluorescence staining of oral biopsy.

Patient has approved the presentation of her case.