CALCIFILAXIS: REPORTE DE CASO

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ABSTRACT PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND: Calciphylaxis is a relatively rare and frequently unrecognized condition leading to skin ulceration and tissue necrosis, presenting as painful skin lesions often complicated by superimposed infections. This pathology, most often associated with end stage renal disease, results in decreased quality of life, high morbidity and mortality. We present a representative case of calciphylaxis in an elderly patient.

CASE DESCRIPTION: A 79-year-old female with past medical history of end stage renal disease on hemodialysis due to diabetic nephropathy presented with severe leg pain and multiple skin ulcerations. She had been hospitalized two months prior with significant leg pain however no ulcerations were present at that time. Physical examination now revealed multiple full thickness wounds in her bilateral anterior and inner thighs.

CASE OUTCOMES: Skin biopsy demonstrated fat necrosis with intra- and extravascular calcium deposition confirming diagnosis of calciphylaxis. Aggressive wound and pain management commenced. Sodium thiosulfate was added with dialysis. Over the succeeding months, the patient suffered significant pain and eventual wound infection managed with intravenous antibiotics and wound care. She became bed bound secondary to ongoing pain and comorbid illness. Palliative care was consulted to assist with care in light of pain and suffering and in recognition of her limited life expectancy.

DISCUSSION: Calciphylaxis is a highly morbid condition associated with decreased quality of life and increased mortality in all age groups. While the pathophysiology is still in question, diagnosis is confirmed with skin biopsy. To date, sodium thiosulfate is the only pharmacologic treatment with subjective improvement in reducing pain and wound healing. However, evidence of efficacy is still lacking. Thus, the main staple of therapy relies upon wound care, pain management and interventions directed toward quality of life. Mortality may be as high as 60-80% with a 1 year survival rate of only 45%.