Leser-Trelat Sign Without Malignancy in a Geriatric Patient
A Case Report

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SUMMARY: Leser-Trélat sign is characterized by the abrupt appearance of multiple seborrhoeic keratoses, which are often pruritic, usually it is associated with an underlying malignant disease. Here we report a case of 72-year-old healthy woman with Leser-Trélat. She is consulted to dermatology for her rapidly growing lesions over her lower abdominal and suprapubic regions for seven months. She oriented to our clinic for malignity scanning. We were followed for 1 year and not detected any internal cancer. To date, almost all cases of Leser-Trélat sign have been reported in association with an underlying malignancy. It is less known that Leser-Trélat sign can also occur in healthy individuals in the absence of internal malignancy. Leser-Trélat sign of the patients are evaluated for malignancy and the screening of suspect cases is important. A new and rapidly growing seborrhoeic keratoses; Leser-Trélat sign is important and suspected cases should be screened for malignancy.

KEY WORDS: Leser-Trelat Sign, internal malignancy, seborrhoeic keratosis.

ÖZET: Leser-Trelat işaret, sudden eruption of multiple seborrhoeic keratoses karakterized, usually associated with pruritus and it is generally accepted as a marker of an internal malignancy. Here we report a case of 72-year-old healthy woman with Leser-Trelat. She is consulted to dermatology for her rapidly growing lesions over her lower abdominal and suprapubic regions for seven months. She oriented to our clinic for malignity scanning. We were followed for 1 year and not detected any internal cancer. To date, almost all cases of Leser-Trelat sign have been reported in association with an underlying malignancy. It is less known that Leser-Trelat sign can also occur in healthy individuals in the absence of internal malignancy. Leser-Trelat sign of the patients are evaluated for malignancy and the screening of suspect cases is important. A new and rapidly growing seborrhoeic keratoses; Leser-Trelat sign is important and suspected cases should be screened for malignancy.

ANAHTAR KELİMELER: Leser-Trelat Sign, malignite, seboreik keratoz

1. Introduction

Leser-Trelat sign, first described by Edmund Leser and Ulysse Trelat, characterized by sudden eruption of numerous seborrhoeic keratoses, usually associated with pruritus and it is generally accepted as a marker of an internal malignancy. [1]. In 1900, a subsequent report clearly defined the association of seborrhoeic keratosis and cancer. [2] Because both seborrhoeic keratoses and cancer are common in the elderly, it is not always easy to tell from the literature or in any given patient if this sign is present. [3]

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72 years old women oriented to our internal medicine clinic from dermatology unit in order to investigate etiology of multiple seborrhoeic keratosis. She had darkpapular, pruritic lesions on her lower abdominal and suprapubic areas for seven months but there is not any pain or drainage from these lesions. [Figure 1]. She has coronary artery disease and had undergone abdominal histerectomy before. She had had also constipation for five years. Physical examination reveals that her body mass index (BMI) is 30 and she has multiple seborrhoeic keratosis on
lower abdominal and suprapubic areas. Although there is no symptom of a suspicious malignancy she was investigated. Laboratory test results were as follows: Hgb:11.4 g/dl MCV:81fl vit B12:150 pg/dL ferritin:13 μg/l fasting plasma glucose: 95mg/dl fasting Insulin: 16 mU/L HOMA: 3.7 and tumor markers were normal. Posteroanterior chest radiography, abdominal and breast ultrasonography, mammography, upper and lower gastrointestinal (GIS) endoscopy, thoracoabdominal computerized tomography (CT) were performed. Upper GIS endoscopy revealed antral erosions and gastric ulcers. Biopsy result was chronic gastritis, Bone mineral dainsitometry result revealed osteopenia but it is associated with benign process. Her antiparietal cell antibodies was negative, 25-hydroxy vitamin D was 14 nmol/L. She was prescribed vitamin B12 i.v per month and calcium / D vitamin replacement. We suggested that we give to the patient diet therapy and weight loss and called control.

![Figure 1. Suddenly growing multiple seborrheic keratosis](image)

2. Discussion

Usually, the sign of Leser-Trélat is associated with adenocarcinoma, most frequently of the colon, breast, or stomach, but also of the lung, kidney, liver, and pancreas.[4] The average age at onset Leser Trelat sign is about 60 years. In the literature have been described rarely young cases. [5]. Heaphy et al. suggest that it would be useful to distinguish between a "sign of Leser-Trélat" and a "syndrome of Leser Trélat." They propose that the "sign of Leser-Trélat" be defined as a sudden acute efflorescence of seborrheic keratoses sometimes accompanied by pruritus or acanthosis nigricans (or both). According to this definition, the sign may be present with or without occult malignancy and is detectable on history and physical examination alone. The term "syndrome of Leser-Trélat" would then be used to describe a paraneoplastic syndrome in patients with the "sign of Leser-Trélat" in whom an occult malignancy was identified after the appearance of the sign.[6] Therefore one patients should be followed in a long period for determining Lesser Trelat as a syndrome’s finding.
The cause of the Leser Trelat sign is unknown. This paraneoplastic syndrome is thought to be related to a tumor-derived circulating growth factor which induces epidermal proliferation and results in the rapid development of multiple seborrheic keratoses. [7] The importance of the immunohistochemical analyses of endogenous mediators such as epidermal growth factor receptor protein and the consequent high risk of underlying malignancies have been described. [4] Molecular genetics has shown that somatic fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase catalytic subunit α (PIK3CA) mutations are involved in the pathogenesis of seborrheic keratoses, although the precise mechanisms and the signaling responsible are still unclear. Unlike seborrheic keratosis, the seborrheic keratosis in Leser-Trelat sign would not be associated with any FGFR3 or PIK3CA mutations, because activation of involved signal pathways would be due to an excess of ligands secreted by the cancer cells. [8] The release of insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) and the stimulation of insulin receptors and IGF-1 receptors may also be the mechanism by which neoplasias produce the Leser-Trelat sign. [9] Another potential mechanism for these lesions relates to the possible role of human papillomavirus as an etiological factor in seborrheic keratoses, especially in immunocompromised patients with human immunodeficiency virus infection [10].

3. Conclusion
This case describes Leser Trelat sign in a healthy woman. We investigated the case for the patients age and for her rapidly growing seborrheic keratosis in order to exclude any malignancy. However there was not any malignancy sign. These findings shows that Leser Trelat sign sometimes do do not refer and pathology and seems as a benign condition. IGF-1 in the setting of hyperinsulinemia provide a unifying hypothesis for he appearance of Leser- Trelat sign in our patient. In the present case we didn’t find pathology under screening tests. These lesions;that we called Lesser- Trelat sign, may develop in patients without malignancy to should keep in mind. However, patients with a history of acute onset and rapid increase in size and number of multiple seborrheic keratoses must be evaluated by a screening program in order to rule out any underlying cancer.

REFERENCES

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