Letter to Editor

Premature Reflection of Type IIa Hyperlipoproteinemia in the Peripheral Arteries

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Received: 29 May 2018, Accepted 17 August 2018, Published online: 30 August 2018
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Abstract
Hyperlipoproteinemia may lead to early development of atherosclerosis especially when present in familial forms. Serum low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol is known to be the most important form of atherosclerotic particles. Type IIa hyperlipoproteinemia is one of the most important forms of these familial disorders and gives rise to extremely elevated serum LDL cholesterol levels. Beside the cardiovascular mortality risk that the patient carries because of the early development of atherosclerotic lesions in all vascular tree, this clinical entity also manifests itself with accumulation of cholesterol particles on the skin. Herein we report a very early presentation of Type IIa hyperlipoproteinemia with both atherosclerotic lesions in the arteries and lipid deposits on the skin.

Key words: Type IIa hyperlipoproteinemia, atherosclerosis, reflection

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DOI: 10.19127/mbsjohs.428356

This case was presented as an oral presentation in the “31th National Cardiology Congress with International Participation, October 22-25, 2015” in Antalya, Turkey

Main text and Results
Hyperlipoproteinemia is a frequently seen disorder of lipid metabolism. It ensues from inability to metabolize the lipids, specifically cholesterol and triglycerides. There are several types of hyperlipoproteinemia. The type depends on the concentration of lipids and which are affected. Type II hyperlipoproteinemia is characterized by an abnormally high plasma β-lipoprotein concentration. It is commonly seen in the absence of any other lipoprotein abnormality. However elevated levels of plasma pre-β-lipoprotein may sometimes accompany this clinical entity. Hence it is advised that the Type II hyper-lipoproteinemia should be subdivided into Type IIa (increased concentration of β-lipoprotein alone) and Type IIb (increased concentrations of β-and pre-β-lipoprotein) (Beaumont JL et al, 1970). Type IIa hyper-lipoproteinemia is characterized by the increased levels of serum low-density lipoprotein
cholesterol (LDL-chol) levels. Absence of chylomicrons in plasma is prominent. Serum triglyceride levels are also normal. It leads to premature coronary artery disease as well as atherosclerosis of entire arterial network. The subjects are generally exposed to atherosclerotic burden in the early fourth decade (Singh and Bittner, 2015). Herein we report a 20 years old male presenting with atherosclerotic disease of both carotid and iliac arteries.

The patient was referred to cardiology polyclinic from primary care physician with swelling on the eyelids and extensor face of the elbow, which were likely to be xanthelesma (Figure 1, 2).

The patient underwent echocardiographic evaluation following a questionnaire about history of the past years, physical examination of cardiovascular system, sampling of blood and recording of a resting 12-lead electrocardiogram. All the findings were normal except serum lipid profile revealing a LDL-chol level of 447 mg/dl, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol level of 36 mg/dl and total cholesterol level of 499 mg/dl. Serum triglyceride level was normal as 81 mg/dl. The lipid profile was consistent with familial type IIa hyper-lipoproteinemia. Doppler ultrasound evaluation revealed 50% and 40% stenosis in carotid and both iliac arteries respectively (Figure 3, 4).

**Conclusion**

Lying behind the atherosclerotic process is a well-known feature of familial hyper-lipoproteinemia. However, development of atherosclerotic lesions in the peripheral arteries at such an early age is worthy of reporting in terms of emphasizing the crucial role of hyperlipidemia in atherosclerosis, which is subject to speculations even in the scientific area.

**Patient Approval:** Approval was received for this study from the patient.

**Peer-review:** Externally peer-reviewed.


**Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

**Financial Disclosure:** The author declared that this study hasn’t received no financial support.
References