

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT AND CARE OF A PATIENT WITH CALCIPHYLAXIS

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Introduction

Calciphylaxis is a rare disorder of systemic arteries that result in tissue ischemia and necrosis. In most cases, it is reported in patients with severe renal disorder, particularly in patients who are treated with hemodialysis or have transplanted kidneys. The exact diagnosis can only be established by tissue biopsy and pathological examination. Here we present a case of successful treatment and care of a patient with calciphylaxis.



skin damage in the initial stage



Methods

We examined the clinical picture, laboratory findings, the course and treatment that were enrolled in patient medical records.



progression of the disease



Case report

A 40 year old male patient that had a transplanted kidney for 12 years was admitted to our Clinic due to worsening of his renal function. Eighteen days after admission he started hemodialysis (HD) treatment. His condition worsened as he developed extensive necrotic wounds on both lower legs that gave the clinical impression of calciphylaxis that was later on proven by tissue biopsy. Due to the patients severe clinical condition, HD was intensified to 4 times a week, he received 30 barotherapy treatments. His wounds were treated with silver coating bandages that were replaced 3-4 times a week, as recommended by plastic surgeon. On eighty-ninth day he started to receive sodium-sulphate (i.v.) 3 times a week at the end of HD. The gradual improvement of wound healing was observed and six months after discharge can walk on his own and his wounds have completely healed.



healing of skin changes



Conclusion

Treatment and care of patients with calciphylaxis is demanding. Patients that develop calciphylaxis are at high risk of developing a serious infection of the wounds that can easily progress to sepsis and have a fatal ending.

For this kinds of patients a multidisciplinary team that includes nephrologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, psychologists and nurses is required.

Regarding treatment and care of these patients we recommend analgesia, wound showering, application of wound coatings preferably with silver as an antiseptic.

With its expertise, knowledge and sacrifice, the nurse greatly contributes to the quality of patient treatment and care.