KID Syndrome and Hidradenitis Suppurativa: A Rare Association Responding to Surgical Treatment

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Established Facts

- Keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness syndrome + hidradenitis suppurativa is a rare association and needs a complex therapeutic management.
- There is lack of information regarding the treatment in the literature due to the rarity of the association.

Novel Insights

- Surgical therapy for hidradenitis suppurativa lesions has achieved excellent results in a patient affected by this rare association.

Keywords
Keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness syndrome · Hidradenitis suppurativa · Rare · Genodermatosis · Surgical treatment

Abstract

Background: Keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness (KID) syndrome is a rare genodermatosis characterized by keratitis, neurosensorial auditory impairment and ichthysiform skin involvement. Frequent complications of the syndrome are chronic, opportunistic cutaneous infections, and the development of skin cancers. Several cases of association between KID syndrome and other conditions, including hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), are described in the literature. This correlation could be explained by the hyperproliferative state of the epidermis, which occurs in KID syndrome and may favor follicular plugging. Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe a very rare case of association between KID syndrome and HS and its complex therapeutic management. Results: The failure of the drugs commonly used in HS and the excellent results of surgery, although difficult to achieve, were experienced. Conclusion: Despite the techni-
Introduction

Keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness (KID) syndrome is a rare genodermatosis that typically results from missense mutations in the GJB2 gene. This gene encodes a transmembrane, gap junction channel-forming protein named connexin 26, whose aberrant behavior causes cellular malfunction [1]. The commonest mutation discovered as a cause of KID syndrome is D50N (p.Asp50Asn). Less common mutations are G12R (p.Gly12Arg), S17F (p.Ser17Phe), D50Y (p.Asp50Tyr), I30N (p.Ile30Asn), and G11E (p.Gly11Glu) [2]. Furthermore, early lethality is associated with G45E (p.Gly45Glu) and A88V (p.Ala88Val) mutations [3]. The resulting syndrome is characterized by photophobia and ocular neovascularization (keratitis), progressively reducing visual acuity, neurosensory auditory impairment, and skin involvement and by hyperkeratotic plaques and palmoplantar keratoderma with alopecia and/or onychodystrophy. Frequent complications of the syndrome are chronic, opportunistic cutaneous infection, and the development of skin malignancies, mostly squamous cell carcinoma [4]. KID syndrome may be associated with other conditions as described in the literature [5–7]; we present a case of association between KID syndrome and hidradenitis suppurativa (HS).

Case Report

A woman, born of non-consanguineous healthy parents, presented with congenital neurosensorial bilateral hearing loss and ichthyosiform dermopathy characterized by palmoplantar keratoderma, widespread scales, fingernail and toenail dystrophy, and a hyperkeratotic plaque of the scalp. At the age of 38 years, after genetic counseling and analysis, a KID syndrome related to the D50N mutation was diagnosed.

The patient also reported recurrent inguinal abscesses since adolescence, treated with surgical drainages. At the age of 39 years, she developed a complex inflammatory skin condition characterized by nodules, abscesses, and fistulas in the genital and groin area, diagnosed as HS. No signs of acne vulgaris or dissecting cellulitis (DC) of the scalp were found during clinical examination and no history of these conditions was reported by the patient. The physical examination showed the involvement of the right inguinal and crural region, right hemivulva, and perianal region (Hurley III, Sartorius 76) (Fig. 1). MRI reported skin and subcutaneous edema extending from the medial region of the right thigh root to the ipsilateral vulvar region. In this context, there was evidence of a vulvar fistula that branched out into at least 3 fistulas that developed up to the ipsilateral groin region. Another tunnel from the anal canal to the skin plane was noticed. Gynecologic evaluation confirmed the absence of fistulas involving the vaginal walls. The patient was initially treated with an antibiotic therapy (combination of clindamycin and rifampicin) with limited and temporary benefit on HS. Subsequently, the patient was treated with adalimumab, which led to a mild clinical improvement but not to any benefit on the quality of life. After gynecologic and plastic surgery consultation the patient was subjected to excision of the areas affected by HS.

During the postoperative course, the patient presented with fever and slight foul-smelling suppuration on the surgical wound. Skin swabs demonstrated a pseudomonas aeruginosa infection. Targeted antibiotic therapy was effective, and the surgical wound repaired by secondary intention, with optimal surgical outcome (Fig. 3).

Discussion

HS is usually a sporadic disease but sometimes appears in the context of rare syndromes; in addition to the case we are presenting, an association with KID syndrome is
Surgical Treatment of HS in Association with KID Syndrome

reported only in 5 cases, as part of the follicular occlusion triad (HS, acne vulgaris, and dissecting cellulitis of the scalp) [8]. In 3 of these patients D50N mutation of GJB2 was identified [5, 9, 10], 1 patient presented with A40V mutation [11], and another 1 with G12R mutation [2] (Table 1). This correlation could be explained by the hyperproliferative state of the epidermis which occurs in KID syndrome: this condition may lead to follicular plugging, which is widely considered a relevant factor in the pathogenesis of HS.

Surgical therapy is becoming increasingly common in the treatment of HS and the authors experienced the excellent results obtained in this case of association with KID syndrome. Nevertheless, 2 critical issues are related to the surgical procedure. First is represented by the high risk of opportunistic cutaneous infection of the surgical area, which can lead to delayed wound healing and increased morbidity. Second is the concern regarding the recurrence of HS lesions in the treated areas, as increased proliferative activity in the epidermis may facilitate the development of new lesions. Therefore, close monitoring and prompt treatment of any complications are crucial for successful outcomes.

Table 1. KID and HS association features in the literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Cutaneous features of KID</th>
<th>HS localizations</th>
<th>Genetics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintz et al. [5]</td>
<td>Dry skin, widespread hyperkeratotic plaques, sparse hair, fingernail dystrophy</td>
<td>Axillae and groins, associated with AV and DC</td>
<td>D50N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyquist et al. [9]</td>
<td>Ichthyosis cutis, palmoplantar keratoderma</td>
<td>Groins and axillae</td>
<td>D50N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prasad and Bygum [10]</td>
<td>Dry skin, widespread hyperkeratotic plaques, sparse hair, fingernail dystrophy</td>
<td>Axillae and groins, associated with AV and DC</td>
<td>D50N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery et al. [11]</td>
<td>Leukonychia, mild hyperkeratotic plaque of the scalp</td>
<td>Axillae and groins, associated with AV and DC</td>
<td>A40V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazic et al. [2]</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown, associated with AV and DC</td>
<td>G12R</td>
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</table>

AV, acne vulgaris; DC, dissecting cellulitis; KID, keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.
Conclusions

Despite the critical point previously raised, the authors strongly recommend the surgical approach in patients with this rare association. The description of this case is significant for 2 reasons. (1) The rarity of the association between KID and HS. This is the sixth case described in the literature. (2) Support of the surgical approach, despite the critical points raised.

Statement of Ethics

The patient has given her written informed consent to publish photos and details of the case.

References