

Abstract

Background

Melioidosis is an emerging infection in South Asia caused by *Burkholderiapseudomallei* with various clinical presentations that include pneumonia, bacteraemia, arthritis and deep seated abscesses. Even though varied cutaneous manifestations have been described in association with Melioidosis, Sweet Syndrome secondary to melioidosis has not been reported in the literature. Here we report the first case of Sweet syndrome secondary to melioidosis.

Case presentation

53-year-old previously healthy Sri Lankan female presented with high grade fever, painful oral ulcers, odynophagia and multiple bilateral cervical lymphadenopathy for one-month's duration. She also had loss of appetite and weight. She had oral ulcers and bilateral blepharitis. Dermatological examination revealed multiple tender juicy papules with a mamillated appearance and targetoid lesions with a yellowish centre over the face, upper trunk and upper limbs. She also had multiple tender subcutaneous nodules over the extensor aspect of upper limbs. Her inflammatory markers were significantly elevated. Aspirate from a submental lymph node abscess revealed growth of *Burkholderiapseudomallei*. Melioidosis antibody titre was > 10240. The histology of the skin lesions of the face and left forearm showed a prominent neutrophilic infiltrate in the dermis and the morphological features were in favour of Sweet syndrome with panniculitis. She was started on intravenous meropenem 2 g daily and showed rapid clinical improvement with disappearance of skin lesions as well as a reduction in inflammatory markers.

Conclusion

Sweet syndrome is an uncommon inflammatory disorder known to be associated with upper respiratory tract and gastrointestinal infections, malignancies and use of certain drugs. Melioidosis is an emerging infection with various cutaneous manifestations. This is the first case of Melioidosis

causing secondary sweet syndrome. It emphasizes the importance of considering Melioidosis as a potential aetiology in patients with Sweet syndrome.