

Abstract

Rheumatoid vasculitis is a rare extraarticular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis with heterogeneous clinical manifestations, commonly involving the skin and peripheral nerves. Typical manifestations of vasculitic neuropathy are acute focal, painful neuropathy. Severe sensory-motor polyneuropathy is rare. We report a case of Rheumatoid vasculitis associated with cutaneous vasculitis and severe sensory-motor polyneuropathy. 64y old woman presented with acute onset rapidly progressive ascending weakness of all 4 limbs for 1-day duration preceded by a painful purpuric rash in extensor surfaces of lower limbs for 4 days duration. Definitive Diagnosis of Rheumatoid vasculitis and probable vasculitic neuropathy was made based on the skin biopsy and clinical criteria. She made a good recovery following 5 cycles of plasmapheresis and started on azathioprine as maintenance therapy. This case highlights the importance of suspecting rheumatoid vasculitis in a patient presenting with skin lesions and neuropathy with established seropositive rheumatoid arthritis, and underlies the necessity of accurate differential diagnosis in acute neuropathies.