

Para-leishmanial Dermatitis Associated with Cutaneous Leishmaniasis: An Observational Study

Usama Abdul-Jaleel Althuwayni*

ABSTRACT

To characterize the clinical patterns of para-leishmanial dermatitis in cutaneous leishmaniasis, documenting their presentation and supporting their parasite-induced nature through therapeutic response. This observational study included patients from November 2023 to November 2025 at Al-Diwaniyah Teaching Hospital. Eighteen patients with Cutaneous leishmaniasis and associated dermatitis, diagnosed clinically and confirmed via histopathology (including biopsies from both lesion and dermatitis sites), were enrolled. All patients received intralesional sodium stibogluconate. The patients ranged in age from 6 to 17 years, and there were 11 females and 7 males. Two clinical patterns were recognised: Pattern I: Remote dermatitis seen in 7 patients = 38.9%: (5 with malar rash, 2 with facial photosensitivity-like rash). Pattern II: Localized perilesional dermatitis seen in 11 patients = 61.1%. Complete resolution of both Cutaneous leishmaniasis lesions and associated dermatitis almost simultaneously occurred in all patients after antiparasitic treatment (with a mean time of 7.4 weeks). This series presents distinctive clinical patterns of para-leishmanial dermatitis, with the perilesional adjacent form being slightly more common than the remote form, with the interesting malar photodistributed dermatitis. Histopathology of the associated dermatitis lesions revealed the absence of lupoid leishmaniasis. The concomitant resolution of both Cutaneous leishmaniasis and related dermatitis due to antiparasitic treatment alone suggests its reactive, parasite- mediated pathogenicity, thus highlighting the importance of correct diagnosis to avoid unwanted therapeutic measures in endemic areas.

Keywords: *Cutaneous leishmaniasis, ID reaction, Intralesional therapy, Dermatitis, Malar eczema; Sodium stibogluconate.*

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* Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
University of Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Diwaniyah, Iraq.
Email: isama.Althuwaynee@qu.edu.iq