An Epidermolysis Bullosa Patient Complicated with Chronic Renal Failure

Epidermolizis Bülloza Tanısıyla İzlenen Olguda Kronik Böbrek Yetmezliği

Abstract

A 32-yr-old man with epidermolysis bullosa presented with clinical and laboratory findings of chronic renal failure. The patient was supposed to be suffering from mesangial IgA glomerulonephritis in view of the repeated persistent macroscopic episodes of hematuria and raised serum IgA levels, especially polimeric IgA. Because continuous vascular access could not be established, the patient died due to uremia and sepsis. Renal complications are associated with life-threatening problems in this inherited mecanobullous disease because it is impossible to obtain a continuous vascular access or a continuous peritoneal access. The possibility of IgA nephropathy should be considered in patients with epidermolysis bullosa. They should be periodically set up screened for IgA levels and hematuria.

Key words: Epidermolysis bullosa, kidney failure, chronic

Özet

Epidermolizis büloza (EB) tanısıyla takip edilen 32 yaşında erkek hasta, kronik böbrek yetmezliğinin klinik ve laboratuvar bulgularıyla başvurdu. Tekrarlayan persistan hematuri olan ve özellikle polimerik IgA olmak üzere serum IgA düzeyleri yüksek olarak saptanan hastada mezengial IgA glomerulonefriti düşünüldü. Sürekli vasküler yol sağlanamayan hasta sepsis ve üremi nedeniyle kaybedildi. Bu ailesel mekano-büllöz hastalıka kronik vasküler ya da kronik periton yolu sağlanması için renal kompleksiyonlar hayatı tehdit eden problemlere neden olabilir. Epidermolizis büloza hastalarında IgA nefropatişi ihtimali göz önüne bulundurulmalıdır. Hastalarda hematüri ve serum IgA düzeyleri periyodik olarak takip edilmelidir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Epidermolizis büloza, böbrek yetmezliği, kronik

Introduction

Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) is a rare genetic disease characterized by the presence of extremely fragile skin and recurrent blister formation, resulting from minor mechanical friction or trauma. The most obvious signs are vesicles and bullae within the skin and mucous membranes. Inside the body, such as the linings of the mouth, esophagus, stomach, intestines, lungs, bladder, and genitals may also be involved and clinical heterogeneity is a manifestation of a variety of heritable molecular defects. There are three main forms of inherited EB: EB simplex, junctional EB and dystrophic EB (DEB). These different subtypes are defined according to the depth of blister location within the skin layers. In EB, secondary renal amyloidosis, urological complications such as genitourinary tract stricture and post-infectious glomerulonephritis have all been reported (1-5). Although it is known that IgA nephropathy may complicate several dermatosis such as dermatitis herpetiformis, psoriasis, EB complicated by IgA nephropathy has been thought to be rare (1, t6-8). We described a patient with junctional or dystrophic EB associated with possible IgA nephropathy.

Case

A 34-yr-old man who have been followed for EB in the Dermatology Department of our center for 6 years presented with the
symptoms of dyspnea, nausea, and vomiting. He had a history of skin fragility in response to mechanical trauma beginning from birth. The patient's sister died of the same disease in her 29. He was diagnosed as EB when he was seven years old. The skin biopsy taken 3 years ago from the perilesional skin adjacent to a fresh blister, hematoxylin-eosin and periodic acid-schiff (PAS) stainings showed subepidermal blister formation. PAS-positive basement membrane was found on the floor of blisters. It was reported that he had not come routine visits in Dermatology Department for two years. Renal function and blood biochemistry values were normal two years ago. The patient reported no other medications except some topical steroids and topical antibiotics. Physical examination on admission revealed cachexia. Multiple fragile blisters were observed all over his body. He had nail loss and dystrophy and dental enamel hypoplasia. The patient was blisters were observed all over his body. He had nail loss and dystrophy and dental enamel hypoplasia. The patient was.

Renal complications are associated with life-threatening problems in this inherited mechanobullous disease, because it may be impossible to obtain a vascular access. In English literature, a patient with recessive dystrophic EB who performed successful peritoneal dialysis for 14 months was reported (11). Peritoneal dialysis catheter needs an approximately 10 cm tunnel under skin before entering the abdomen. Our patient had bullae, chronic ulcers, granulation tissue, and infection around the exit site of the hemodialysis catheter. We didn't insert peritoneal dialysis catheter because we thought that the patient could have similar skin reactions like hemodialysis catheter. The possibility of IgA nephropathy should be considered in patients with EB and patients should be periodically screened for IgA levels and hematuria.

**Discussion**

IgA nephropathy is a mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis characterized by diffuse mesangial deposition of IgA. IgA is the most abundant immunoglobulin in the body and primarily concerned with mucosal defence. Mucosal antigen challenge provokes polymeric IgA (pIgA) production by plasma cells of the mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue, the pIgA is transported across epithelium into mucosal fluids. Circulating IgA is bone marrow-derived and mostly in monomeric IgA (mIgA) form. The mesangial IgA in IgA nephropathy is pIgA. The clinical association with mucosal infection originally suggested that the mesangial pIgA comes from the mucosal immune system, as most pIgA is mucosally derived. In our patient prominent IgA was polymeric IgA. Genitourinary tract stricture does not seem to be a likely cause of the chronic renal failure (CRF) in this case. Likewise post infectious glomerulonephritis is unlikely, as complement levels were normal (6-10).

IgA mesangial deposits have been reported to be associated with some diseases involving mucosa such as ulcerative colitis and celiac disease. Common denominator that could explain the development of IgA mesangial deposits in these diseases is unknown. It is known that the onset or exacerbation of IgA nephropathy is often preceded by a respiratory tract infection or infections at other locations a few days earlier. Level of serum IgA is elevated in about half of the patients with IgA nephropathy. In 40-50 % of cases, the clinical presentation is episodic hematuria (6-9). EB is also one of the cause of AA type renal amyloidosis. In amyloidosis, proteinuria, mainly albuminuria, occurs in the absence of hematuria (5). In our patient proteinuria was not detected. Renal biopsy is the gold standart for diagnosis of IgA nephropathy. However, we could not performed because of the patient's parent refusal. The patient might be suffering from mesangial IgA glomerulonephritis in the view of the repeated persistent macroscopic episodes of hematuria and raised serum IgA levels, especially pIgA.

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References