



Catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome: Case report

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Introduction :

Catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome (CAPS) is a rare but potentially life-threatening condition characterized by diffuse vascular thrombosis, leading to multiple organ failure developing over a short period of time in the presence of positive antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL). CAPS is a severe form of antiphospholipid syndrome, developed in 1 to 7 % of cases. Cardiac involvement is considered one of the most serious manifestations of CAPS. In this context, we report a case with coronary artery disease.

Clinical case :

It was a 55-year-old female patient who consulted for swollen and painful right lower limb associated to a chest and abdominal pain. Emergency investigations concluded to a deep venous thrombosis of the right lower limb complicated of distal pulmonary embolism, thrombosis of mesenteric arteries and veins, and a myocardial infarction secondary to a thrombosis of the anterior interventricular artery. The patient was admitted in the medical intensive care unit for close monitoring. Curative anticoagulation in addition to anti-ischemic treatment were rapidly initiated. Etiological investigations revealed a very high levels of anti-cardiolipine and anti-B2 glycoprotein type 1 antibodies. The diagnosis of CAPS was retained. Corticosteroids and intravenous immunoglobulin were added with a rapidly favorable evolution.

Discussion and conclusion :

Catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome is a rare disease with high mortality. Its early diagnosis is crucial in order to establish an effective treatment and then to ameliorate vital prognosis