



## **Crohn's Disease and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Rare Coexistence of Two Different Diseases with a Concomitant Diagnosis**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and Crohn's Disease (CD) are multisystem diseases characterized by widespread tissue damage. Different autoimmune disorders can coexist, however, the association of SLE and CD is rare. According to the literature, the prevalence of this combination is around 0,7%. Considering the rarity of the coexistence, we report a case of a patient with a concomitant diagnosis of SLE and CD.

### **CASE REPORT**

A 47-year-old female, came to the emergency complaining of intense abdominal pain, diarrhoea with gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, fever and vomit. The patient was empirically treated with ciprofloxacin, metronidazole and albendazole. During the treatment she underwent an important alopecia, malar rash, photosensitivity and reported she was seeing little demons in the infirmary. Lab results showed: chronic disease anemia, leukopenia, lymphopenia, ANA 1:320 nucleolar dense fine speckled pattern, hypocomplementemia and positive Anti- dsDNA antibodies. The diagnosis of SLE was confirmed and methylprednisolone 62,5mg per day and hydroxychloroquine 400mg per day was started. The overall clinical picture was improving, but the patient continued feeling mild abdominal pain and abdominal distention. A colonoscopy was performed and showed multiple erosions on descending colon and sigmoid with sparse normal mucosa. The histopathological result showed non-caseating granuloma and no evidence of vasculitis. Treatment with glucocorticosteroids continued and azathioprine was included. The patient had good outcome and is now in remission with prednisone 20mg, azathioprine and hydroxychloroquine 400mg and being followed-up by the rheumatology and gastroenterology.

### **CONCLUSION**

SLE has a wide clinical features involving multisystems. However, SLE and CD rarely coexists. In the literature, we identified a few case reports of this association. The importance of such papers are to remember clinical doctors about this association. All the patients usually present with abdominal pain and GI bleeding. The biopsy is our best ally, the presence of non-caseating granuloma and no evidence of vasculitis, is suggestive of CD. There is no guideline for the treatment, normally the use of glucocorticosteroid is effective. The association with azathioprine and hydroxychloroquine (both or one of them) are a good option. The use of Anti-TNF is still a challenge because of the possibility of inducing development of ANA and Anti-dsDNA antibodies.