Angioedema Associated with Eosinophilia

Key words: angioedema, eosinophilia

A 21-year-old Japanese woman noticed edema on her hands and feet in June 2002. She visited a clinic and marked eosinophilia was pointed out. She was referred to our hospital for further examination. Her edema was not pitting and it was localized to her hands and feet. The white blood cell count was $13,320/\text{mm}^3$ with 15% eosinophils. No renal, cardiac or hepatic abnormalities were found. We diagnosed her as angioedema associated with eosinophilia. Her edema completely improved two weeks later. In 1984, Gleich et al (N Engl J Med 310: 1621–1626, 1984) first described 4 patients with episodic angioedema associated with eosinophilia, which was characterized by recurrent episodes of generalized angioedema, urticaria, eosinophilia, and benign clinical course without involvement of the internal organs suggesting a different entity than hypereosinophilic syndrome. Most Japanese patients with this disease are young females, and their edema is nonepisodic and localized to hands and feet. Their clinical features are slight and sometimes improve spontaneously within 1–2 months.

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