

Coumarin-induced necrosis - a rare complication of oral anticoagulant therapy

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Abstract

Coumarin-induced skin necrosis represents a clinical entity that occurs very rarely, with an approximate incidence of 0,01-0,1% at patients following oral anticoagulant therapy. Most of the cases become clinical manifest between the 3rd and 6th of anticoagulant treatment (there were reports of late onset of skin necrosis after 15 years of anticoagulant therapy) and the most involved areas include breast, buttocks and thighs microcirculation - rich areas. Early symptoms include paresthesia and sensation of tension associated with an erythematous flush in the affected area. Lesions are well demarcated, painful, initially erythematous or hemorrhagic, with the onset of skin necrosis in the end stage. Early lesions can be reversible with the discontinuation of anticoagulant therapy, but skin necrosis can reoccur even without any other coumarin based treatment. We report a case of a 55 years old female which presented coumarin induced skin necrosis affecting the right breast and the right deltoid area.

Key words: skin necrosis, coumarin induced non-hemorrhagic complication

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