

CYSTIC KAPOSÍ'S SARCOMA

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ABSTRACT

A Case report of rare variant of Kaposi's sarcoma - cystic Kaposi's Sarcoma - is presented. Combination of alpha-interferon with retinoid treatment produced nearly complete remission of skin symptoms.

KEY WORDS

cystic Kaposi's sarcoma, interferon therapy

In 1872, Moritz Kaposi first described this entity, subsequently named after him, terming it "sarcoma idiopathicum multiplex haemorrhagicum."

The first description of the cystic manifestation of Kaposi's sarcoma is associated with the name of Pelagatti (1905). Since then, several authors, including Ronchese and Kern (1), Gange and Jones (2), Hunyadi et al (3), Recht et al (4) and Pichler et al (5) have described lymphangioma-like manifestations of Kaposi's sarcoma. Only 20 reports of such cases had appeared in the world literature before 1990.

At present, the following forms of the disease are differentiated:

1. classic Kaposi's sarcoma
2. endemic Kaposi's sarcoma
3. Kaposi's sarcoma associated with HIV infection
4. iatrogenic Kaposi's sarcoma (in conditions of immunosuppression)

The following case report describes the special cystic form of Kaposi's sarcoma in which a great number of cystic lesions are observed in addition to the typical classical clinical picture.

CASE REPORT

In May of 1988, an 85-year-old female patient presented with considerable swelling of her right leg. Livid, flattened nodules appeared first on the extensor, and later on the lateral surface of her right lower leg, as well as in the ankle region. These lesions were soft on palpation and gradually increased in number. Months later, vesicles with serous content developed, joining the previous symptoms.

At the time of hospital admission, non-pitting edematous swelling of the right lower leg was observed. Numerous, 4-10 mm diameter, sharply

