

Burning pain attacks and red skin in a young woman

Ataques de dor em queimação e eritrodermia em uma mulher jovem

Paulo Victor Sgobbi de Souza¹, Thiago Bortholin¹, Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto¹, Acary Souza Bulle Oliveira¹

A 21-year-old woman presented with a five-year history of burning pain, redness, swelling and heat in her feet. The medical history disclosed palmar hyperhidrosis. Her family history was unremarkable. Examination showed erythema, heat and marked swelling in her feet, which improved after gabapentin and acetylsalicylic acid treatment (Figure). An extensive evaluation for secondary causes was unremarkable.

Erythromelalgia is characterized by recurrent attacks of intense pain, redness, warmth and swelling, localized to the distal extremities due to secondary etiologies such as myeloproliferative or rheumatologic disorders, drugs (bromocriptine; calcium channel blockers)¹, or as primary erythromelalgia² caused by mutations in the SCN9A gene, coding sodium channel subtype Nav1.7.



Figure. Examination for erythromelalgia. Note the presence of marked erythema, heat and swelling in feet (A, B) with marked response to acetylsalicylic acid and gabapentin treatment after three weeks (C, D).

References

1. Tang Z, Chen Z, Tang B, Jiang H. Primary erythromelalgia: a review. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2015;10:127. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13023-015-0347-1>
2. McDonnell A, Schulman B, Ali Z, Dib-Hajj SD, Brock F, Cobain S et al. Inherited erythromelalgia due to mutations in SCN9A: natural history, clinical phenotype and somatosensory profile. *Brain.* 2016;139(4):1052-65. <https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/aww007>

¹Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Departamento de Neurologia e Neurocirurgia, Divisão de Doenças Neuromusculares, São Paulo SP, Brasil.

Correspondence: Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto; Departamento de Neurologia e Neurocirurgia da UNIFESP, Rua Estado de Israel, 899; 04022-002 São Paulo SP, Brasil; E-mail: wladimirbvpinto@gmail.com

Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.

Received 25 July 2016; Received in final form 08 January 2017; Accepted 15 April 2017.