Necrotizing fasciitis of the legs of unknown origin responsible for a double amputation

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Introduction.– The necrotizing fasciitis is a rare infectious disease and of sometimes quickly fatal evolution. We report a case of necrotizing fasciitis of both legs in the consequences of a deep vein thrombosis of a lower limb, and which quickly evolved towards the amputation. The originality of this work is in the exhibition of a complication so formidable of the fasciitis, as well as in the analysis of the functional future and the quality of life after an intervention by prosthesis.

Observation.– It is about a 40-year-old patient, without considerable history, who was admitted in the service of internal medicine for etiologic assessment of a deep vein thrombosis of the left lower limb. The assessment of thrombophilia was negative. The evolution was labelled by the quickly progressive installation of a necrotizing fasciitis of both legs within the bacteriological taking a Staphylococcus aureus. The treatment consisted of a triple antibiotic therapy, but in front of the not improvement, a bilateral amputation of legs was imperative. A double prosthesis was proposed after healing of stubs with a follow-up in physical and rehabilitation medicine.

The functional result in six months of the apparatus was judged on the following parameters: the balance estimated by Time Up and go test, wandering judged by the 2 min test and Houghton score and the measure of the autonomy estimated by Barthel index.

At our patient, we noted a modest improvement of the various shutters studied because of the not observance of re-education due to the lack of means.

Conclusion.– The necrotizing fasciitis is a serious disorder the etiology of which is not always obvious and the outcome of which can be formidable sometimes leading to the amputation; this one is a major source of handicap and loss of autonomy.

The considerable development of materials and possibilities of prosthesis during these last 20 years returned this interesting alternative.

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