

AUTOIMMUNE SYNDROME INDUCED BY ADJUVANTS (ASIA): experience of woman with breast implants

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INTRODUCTION

The safety of using silicone implants in surgeries has already been proven, but the occurrence of the autoimmune syndrome induced by adjuvants (ASIA) in genetically predisposed patients is still possible¹. The syndrome was first described by Israeli physicians Shoenfeld and Agmon-Levin². It is an autoimmune or inflammatory reaction due to the body's contact with a foreign substance for the body, such as the silicone of breast implants. The clinical symptoms presented by those with the disease are similar to those of some rheumatic diseases, such as chronic fatigue, joint and muscle pain, dry mouth and eyes, irritable bowel syndrome and neurological complaints³. Because these are nonspecific signs and symptoms, which may be linked to several other conditions, there are no clinical and/or laboratory tests or globally validated diagnostic criteria for the identification of this syndrome. In Brazil, the diagnosis is performed from the presence of two major criteria or one major and two minor criteria, as described by Shoenfeld and Agmon-Levin².

OBJECTIVE

To identify the main signs and symptoms experienced by women with ASIA syndrome resulting from the use of silicone breast prostheses and which treatments were performed.

METHOD

It is a ield study, with a descriptive and exploratory character, with a qualitative approach. It was carried out through online interviews using the snowball technique. The study sample comprised thirteen participants.

RESULTS

From data analysis, four categories were listed: a) knowledge about ASIA syndrome; b) signs and symptoms; c) treatment; d) nursing care and implications. More than 120 signs and symptoms were identified, and the explant was mentioned as a definitive treatment by all interviewees. The signs and symptoms presented by the participants are in line with what is described in the literature.

Suggested criteria for the diagnosis of ASIA Syndrome by Shoenfeld and Agmong Levin (2011)	Number of participants with the criteria	Participants
Major criteria		
Exposure to external stimuli prior to clinical manifestations	13 (100%)	P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13
The appearance of 'typical' clinical manifestations		
-Myalgia, myositis, or muscle weakness	6 (46%)	P1, P2, P4, P6, P10, P12
-Arthralgia and/ or arthritis	9 (69%)	P1, P2, P4, P5, P7, P8, P11, P12, P13
-Chronic fatigue, un-refreshing sleep or sleep disturbances	9 (69%)	P1, P2, P4, P5, P6, P8, P9, P11, P13
-Neurological manifestations	3 (23%)	P2, P3, P7
-Cognitive impairment, memory loss	8 (61%)	P1, P2, P4, P5, P7, P9, P11, P12
-Pyrexia, dry mouth	2 (15%)	P2, P9
Removal of inciting agent induces improvement	13 (100%)	P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13
Typical biopsy of involved organs	0 (0%)	-
Minor criteria		
The appearance of autoantibodies or antibodies directed at the suspected adjuvant	0 (0%)	-
Other clinical manifestatios (e.g., irritable bowel syndrome)	13 (100%)	P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13
Specific HLA	0 (0%)	-
Initiation of an autoimmune illness (e.g., multiple sclerosis, systemic sclerosis).	3 (23%)	P5, P8, P13



FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before discovering the disease, the participants underwent treatment focused on relieving symptoms. After diagnosis, all women proceeded with the explant.

PERIOPERATIVE NURSING IMPLICATIONS

Based on the results of this study, the main signs and symptoms of ASIA syndrome presented by Brazilian women and the treatment performed were listed. Such data can contribute to broadening the knowledge of the lay and scientific population regarding the pathology, in order to facilitate the possible diagnosis. In addition, the study generates knowledge for nurses to actively participate in the process of prevention, identification and treatment of the disease.

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