Mucous membrane pemphigoid; Etiology, diagnosis and treatment

Nutchaporn Sanguansin* Kraisorn Sappayatosok*

Abstract

Mucous membrane pemphigoid (MMP) is a chronic autoimmune subepithelial vesiculobullous disorder that predominantly affects the mucous membranes more frequently than the skin. Several target antigens in basement membrane zone have been identified in MMP. It is characterized by linear deposition of IgG, IgA or C3 along the basement membrane zone. The disease severity and extension is highly variable. The patients may present with only mucosal or skin lesions or combined multiple sites. In the oral cavity, the most frequently affected site is the gingiva presented as desquamative gingivitis. The diagnosis of MMP is mainly based on clinical findings, histopathologic and immunofluorescence features. There is no gold standard therapy for MMP. The treatment should be individualized based on the sites of involvement, clinical severity and disease progression. Corticosteroids and immunosuppressive agents are the mainstay of treatment. The significant complication is scarring of the oropharyngeal and ocular mucous membranes which can lead to strictures and blindness. Multidisciplinary approach is necessary for the diagnosis and management of MMP. This article reviews the epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis and treatment of MMP.

Keywords: Autoimmune, Mucous membrane pemphigoid, Corticosteroids, Diagnosis, Treatment

**College of Dental Medicine, Rangsit University, 52/347 Muang Ake, Phaholyothin Road, A. Muang, Pathum Thani 12000 Thailand.*