Diabetes mellitus and infection: lower limbs skin and soft tissue infection
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Introduction
- Skin and soft tissue (SST) infections are common in diabetic persons with the possibility of serious and vital complications.
- We aim to describe clinical and therapeutic particularities and the evolution of SST infection in diabetics.

Methods
- We conducted a retrospective study including diabetic patients admitted for SST infection in the infectious disease department of Sfax. Tunisia between 2015 and 2020.

Results
- 24 patients
- Mean age: 62,2±12 years
- Type of diabetes: - Type 1: 21% of patients
  - Type 2: 79% of patients
- The median delay of hospitalization: 14,8±13 days
- The diagnosis of SST infections was based only on clinical manifestations
- Circumferential extension of the local inflammatory: 8 patients (33,3%)
- The most common causes of the infection:
  - Infected injury: 27,3%
  - Intertrigo interdigital: 18,2%
  - Plantar fissure: 18,2%

Figure 1: The différents causes of the infection

Table I: The most common lesions of the SST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesions</th>
<th>Cases(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Necrotizing fasciitis</td>
<td>7 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangrene</td>
<td>1 (4,2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- General complications: 5 patients (20,8%)
  - Hemodynamic instability: 40%
  - Respiratory distress: 40%
  - Loss of consciousness: 58.30%

Figure 2: Repartition of general complications

- Decompensation of the diabetes:
  - Unbalanced diabetes: 14 patients (58,3%)
  - Ketosis decompensation: 5 patients (16,6%)

- Treatment:
  - Association of antibiotics: 14 patients (58,3%)
  - Association of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid + clindamycin: 10 patients (42,8%)
  - Surgical intervention: 8 patients (33,3%)

- Evolution:
  - Good evolution: 18 patients (75,4%)
  - Recurrence: 4 patients (16,3%)
  - Mortality: 2 patients (8,3%)

Conclusion
- The severity of SST infections in diabetics, as well as, the frequency of recurrence, but the importance to more educating these persons on the hygiene of their feet.