African Kaposi’s Sarcoma

Sarcoma de Kaposi Africano

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A 45-year-old Guinean man, who had come to Portugal under a Health Cooperation Protocol, presented with a six-month history of progressively enlarging, violaceous infiltrative nodules and plaques on both the upper and lower limbs (Fig. 1). Extensive swelling and hyperkeratotic plaques of both feet were also observed (Fig. 2). The histopathological study confirmed the diagnosis of Kaposi sarcoma (KS). Serologies for HIV 1 and 2 were negative, and imaging studies ruled out systemic disease. The patient started chemotherapy with liposomal doxorubicin but he subsequently developed acute heart failure and died.

Kaposi’s sarcoma is a vascular malignancy that affects primarily the skin.1 African or endemic KS, rare in Portugal,2 is most commonly found in sub-Saharan Africa.1 This variant is not related to HIV infection and runs a more aggressive and faster course with wide skin involvement.3

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REFERENCES