Proximal limb weakness and amyotrophy in a man with silicosis

Fraqueza muscular proximal e amiotrofia em um homem com silicose

Paulo Victor Sgobbi de Souza1, Thiago Bortholin1, Fernando George Monteiro Naylor1, Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto1, Beny Schmidt1, Acary Souza Bulle Oliveira1

A 55-year-old man presented with four-year history of progressive muscle wasting and weakness. His medical history disclosed advanced stage silicosis. The examination revealed flaccid quadriparesis with proximal amyotrophy. Serum creatine-kinase levels and screening for metabolic and inflammatory disorders were unremarkable. Muscle biopsy showed myopathic findings and the presence of abnormal amorphous and heterogeneous intracytoplasmic and subsarcolemmal content (Figure).

Toxic myopathies can result from environmental and occupational exposure to toxic agents1. Silicosis results from the deposition of crystalline silicon dioxide (silica) in lung and is associated with different systemic involvement, including osteoporosis, susceptibility to autoimmune disorders, constrictive pericarditis2 and, rarely, myopathy.

Figure. Chest CT-scan and muscle biopsy findings in silicosis. (A, B) Axial chest CT-scan showing bilateral severe advanced stage interstitial lung disease with marked lung architectural distortion (black arrow). Deltoid muscle biopsy showing abnormal subsarcolemmal and intracytoplasmic content disclosed in red in trichrome Gomori stain (C–E; white arrow) and black in NADH-TR histochemistry (F–H; white arrow-head).

References


1Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Divisão de Doenças Neuromusculares, Departamento de Neurologia e Neurocirurgia, São Paulo SP, Brasil.

Correspondence: Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto; Departamento de Neurologia e Neurocirurgia da UNIFESP; Rua Estado de Israel, 899; 04022-002 São Paulo SP, Brasil; E-mail: wladimirbvpinto@gmail.com

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