

Harlequin Syndrome: not just a Color Change

Monika Fida^{1*}, Irena Savo Jorgaqi³, Oljeda Kacani², Ritjana Mala², Ermira Vasili¹

¹ Infectious and Dermatology Department, University of Medicine, Tirana, Albania

² University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa", Tirana, Albania

³ Private Health Service, Dermatology Unit, American Hospital, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Harlequin syndrome is an autonomic disorder of the sympathetic vasomotor and sudomotor nerve fibers characterized by unilateral facial flushing and hyperhidrosis with contralateral anhidrosis. These symptoms are induced by heat, physical activity or emotional factors. Trunk and arms can also be affected. We report a case of a 46-yr-old woman who was referred to UHC, Dermatology Department with complaints of left side facial erythematous flushing and sweating during physical activities especially in hot weather and the right side of the face remaining dry and maintaining its normal color. Detailed examinations were made and no structural abnormality or any other obvious cause of the condition was identified. After the exclusion of

other diagnoses, we concluded the diagnosis Harlequin Syndrome.

Practice Points

- Harlequin Syndrome consist on a unilateral facial flushing and sweating triggered by exercise or hot weather
- CT scan or MRI are important for the differential diagnosis.
- Mostly no treatment is recommended.

Key words: Harlequin syndrome, erythematous flushing, unilateral sweating.