

# Polyarteritis nodosa

**Polyarteritis nodosa** (polyarteritis, classic polyarteritis nodosa, PAN) is an **inflammatory** disease of small and medium vessels of the skin, kidneys, peripheral nerves, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems. It affects the entire wall of the vessel and carries a lot of complications (aneurysm, thrombus, infarction and even manifestations of multi-organ failure).

## Epidemiology and etiology

It is a rare disease, more often affecting men around 50 years of age. The etiology is not yet clear, immune-complexes and some viruses are being considered (*HBV*, *CMV*, *HIV*, parvoviruses).

## Clinical symptoms

The disease is accompanied by general signs of inflammation and varying severity of organ system damage.

- **General signs of inflammation:** high temperatures to fever, fatigue, weight loss, muscle and joint pain.
- **Skin manifestations:** erythema, painful subcutaneous nodules, petechiae, palpable purpura, livedo vascularis, ulcer, skin necrosis (if only the skin is affected, we speak of *polyarteritis nodosa cutanea*).
- **Symptoms of peripheral nerve damage:** pain paresthesia, paresis (peripheral neuropathy with manifestations of mononeuritis multiplex).
- **Symptoms of kidney damage:** hypertension, renal insufficiency, proteinuria, hematuria.
- **Symptoms of GIT damage:** abdominal pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, pancreatitis, cholecystopathy, etc.

## Diagnosis

- **Patient history.**
- **Physical exam.**
- **Laboratory examination methods:** ↑ FW + CRP, eosinophilia, 1/3 of patients HbsAg+, c-ANCA+.
- **Angiography:** occlusions and aneurysms
- **Biopsy** of muscles, liver, kidneys, skin and subsequent histopathological examination.

Note: The American College of Rheumatology has developed classification criteria for *polyarteritis nodosa*.

## Treatment

**Corticosteroids** are mainly used in the treatment, in severe cases they are combined with **cyclophosphamide** (pulses of methylprednisolone + cyclophosphamide at a dose of 10–15 mg / kg at weekly to monthly intervals).

## Sources

### Related articles

- Systemic vasculitis

### Used literature

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Category:Internal medicine Category:Angiology Category:Pathology Category:Dermatovenerology