

Cartilage improvement in a case of relapsing polychondritis

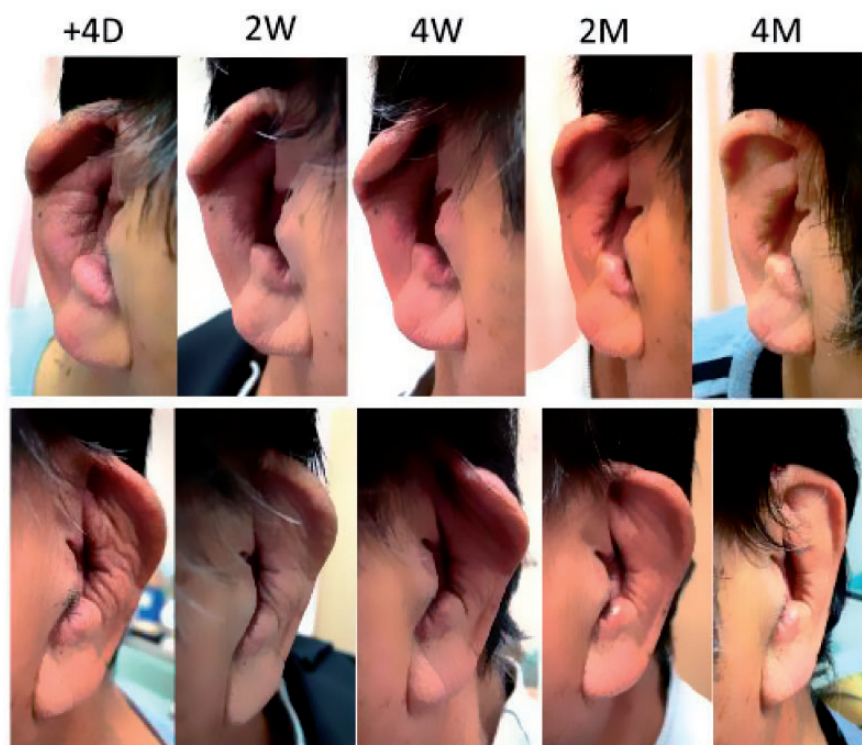
A 64-year-old man visited us with a 10-week history of pain in both ears. After 5 weeks, he started noticing a feeling of bilateral aural fullness. Physical examination on presentation showed tenderness, swelling and redness of both ears. Episcleritis and oligoarthritis were also identified. The patient tested positive for anti-type II collagen

identification and management may improve ear shape in relapsing polychondritis.

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Fig. 1 Change of the ear shape after therapy



antibody. Histopathological staining of a biopsy specimen of the auricular cartilage revealed destructive invasion of lymphocytes into the elastic cartilage, compatible with relapsing polychondritis. Symptoms resolved within a week after initiating moderate-dose glucocorticoid therapy. On review of the ears from 4 days to 6 months after starting therapy (Fig. 1: top row, right ear; bottom row, left ear), ear shape drooped, even after resolution of inflammation, but tended to improve over several months. Early

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