



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

## DERMOSCOPIIC FEATURES OF THE BALLOON CELL NEVI

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**Background:** Balloon cell nevus (BCN) is a rare, benign variant of common nevus without any distinguishing clinical features. Pathologically, BCN is characterized by clusters of large, pale and foamy/vacuolized melanocytes (>50% of total number of melanocytes) with hyperchromatic nuclei. Commonly, multinucleated melanocytes appear within the nevi. It is worth noticing, that balloon cells may also be present in dysplastic nevi and melanomas (particularly, in extremely rare balloon cell variant of melanoma). Distinct dermoscopic features correlate with certain pathological findings in BCN.

**Observation:** Two cases of unchanging BCN were found in patients presenting for the routine nevi screening. First was a dermal balloon cell nevus en cockarde in 13y/o caucasian male, while the second was compound balloon cell nevus in 34y/o caucasian female. Yellow and white oval globules were noted in both pigmented lesions.

**Key message:** White and yellow globules in melanocytic lesion are the clues for BCN. These should be distinguished from milia-like cysts, sebaceous hyperplasia and molluscum contagiosum. BCN does not require any intervention.

