



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

AN UNUSUAL BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

S Boumaiza⁽¹⁾ - M Korbi⁽¹⁾ - M Mokni⁽²⁾ - Y Soua⁽¹⁾ - H Belhadjali⁽¹⁾ - M Youssef⁽¹⁾ - J Zili⁽¹⁾

University Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, Monastir, Tunisia⁽¹⁾ - University Hospital, Department Of Anatomopathology, Monastir, Tunisia⁽²⁾

Introduction: Metatypical (or basosquamous) carcinoma is an uncommon entity which combines the clinical and histopathological features of both basal cell carcinomas (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma. This tumor carries a greater risk of recurrence and metastases. We report the case of a man who presented a metatypical BCC (MTBCC) located on the right shoulder.

Observation: A 65-year-old man consulted us for a papillary tumor of the right shoulder with occasional spontaneous bleeding evolving since 8 months. Initially it looked like a small nail stroke ulceration. On the dermatological examination, we noted a budding tumor ulcerated in the center located on the right shoulder. It measured 4 cm. The clinical and radiological evaluation did not show any metastatic location. A cutaneous biopsy was made. It concluded to a BCC. Seeing the atypical clinical presentation, we evoked the diagnosis of MTBCC. The patient had a complete surgical excision of the tumor. The histopathological findings of the whole tumor confirmed the diagnosis of MTBCC.

Key message: MTBCC is a rare form of BCC. It affects mainly the head and the neck region in male patients as well as our patient. The gold standard for diagnosis is based on the histopathological verification of the whole tumoral tissue. As shown in our case, a biopsy of a sample of the tumor may not reveal the metatypic character. So, this highlights the importance of histopathological examination of the whole tumor after surgical excision. In addition, MTBCC is characterized by its severe aggression and its tendency to recur. Treatment is essentially surgical. Radiotherapy is an adjuvant for the cases with high risk of recurrence. The role of chemotherapy is not yet proved. Clinicians should be aware of this particular type of BCC as it may change the protocols of follow-up of these patients.

