



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## THE SKIN AS THE PRIMARY PRESENTATION SITE IN FIVE CASES OF HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES

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Background: Hematologic malignancies have a broad spectrum of cutaneous manifestations. Leukemia cutis (LC) indicates skin invasion by malignant myeloid blasts. It appears most frequently in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and infrequently in myelodysplastic syndromes and chronic myelogenous leukemia. Clinical manifestations of LC include macules, papules, plaques, nodules, ulcers and purpura. Most cases of LC are diagnosed after hematologic malignancy. Immunophenotypic analysis aids in the specific diagnosis. With successful treatment of the underlying malignancy, skin lesions usually resolve, but LC forecasts poor prognosis. Lymphomas may also have skin manifestations. Plasmablastic lymphoma is an infrequent non-Hodgkin lymphoma, particularly a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma subtype. Usually associated with immunosuppression (HIV) with unknown prognosis.

Observation: (1) 70-year-old-woman with a 15-day-history of asymptomatic, infiltrated, violaceous plaques in both legs. (2) 37-year-old-woman with a 4-months-history of asymptomatic eritematous-brown macules and plaques in neck, arms and axillae. (3) 72-year-old-woman, with a 3-year-diagnosis and treatment of a Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and a 4-months-history of asymptomatic, infiltrated violaceous plaques on eyebrows (with alopecia) and trunk. (4) 46-year-old-woman with a 3-months-history of asymptomatic eritemato-violaceous macules and papules in arms and thighs, (5) 40-year-old-man-HIV(+) not treated, with a 2-week-history of tender-verrucous-plaques in buttocks. Histopathology revealed: LC, LC, LC, LC and Plasmablastic lymphoma, respectively. Patients were later diagnosed with (1):Myelomonoblastic leukemia,(2) and (3):AML.

Key message: Skin lesions may be the main, occasionally the first manifestation of an underlying hematologic neoplasm. Establishing the diagnosis by skin biopsy has an impact on the disease classification, treatment and prognosis. We present five cases where a





dermatologic evaluation and skin biopsy enabled the diagnosis of an unexpected hematological malignancy. These manifestations and the underlying diseases should be kept in mind in order to aid in the early diagnosis and treatment of these patients.

