



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

PAGETOID RETICULOSIS WITH PROMINENT PSEUDOCARCINOMATOUS HYPERPLASIA SIMULATING A SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

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Background: Pseudocarcinomatous hyperplasia (PCH) is a benign reactive epithelial proliferation characterized by acanthosis of epidermis, follicular infundibula and eccrine ducts. It is related to many cutaneous conditions as infections, non-infectious chronic inflammatory dermatosis and neoplasms. PCH might be mistaken, clinically and pathologically, for squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) or keratoacanthoma (KA). The association between PCH and cutaneous lymphomas has been reported several times.

We report a case of 36 year-old woman with a well-delimited exophytic tumor on a traumatic scar, in the right thigh, with an ulcerated and verrucous surface, measuring 4.5 cm, with 18 months of evolution. An incisional biopsy was performed, with hyperkeratosis and marked acanthosis, presenting corneal pearls and atypical nuclei with important pleomorphism and heterochromasia. Concluding diagnosis of SCC. The case was reviewed and the presence of two very different kinds of cells intermingled without intermediate ones made us to reconsider the diagnosis. Completed excision was performed showing psoriasiform hyperplasia, squamous keratinocytes without significant atypia, epidermis with large numbers of atypical cells markedly larger when compared to the lymphoid cells located in the dermal papillae. Immunohistochemistry revealed positivity for anti-CD3, anti-CD8 and anti-CD25, Ki67 60%. The final diagnosis was pagetoid reticulosis associated to marked PCH. The patient still stable and in follow-up.

Observation: A systematic revision of the PubMed database was performed and we found 49 cases associating cutaneous lymphomas and PCH, which 14 cases were misdiagnosed as SCC and KA. Of these 14 cases, 13 were from an incisional biopsy. So lesions with clinical scenario inconsistent with SCC, request a wide and deeper incisional biopsy, to represent a possible underlying disease in dermis and subcutis.

Key message: Is important to draw attention to the PCH phenomenon in cutaneous lymphomas and emphasize that partial biopsies of large lesions may show sampling bias,





leading to a misdiagnosis.

