



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

## CAN CONFOCAL MICROSCOPY BE HELPFUL FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF PINK LESIONS?

*T Rocco<sup>(1)</sup> - V Ciciarelli<sup>(1)</sup> - M.c. Fagnoli<sup>(2)</sup>*

*Department Of Dermatology, University Of L'aquila, San Salvatore Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, L'aquila, Italy<sup>(1)</sup> - Department Of Dermatology, University Of L'aquila, San Salvatore Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, L'aquila, Italy<sup>(2)</sup>*

**Background:** Pink lesions represent a diagnostic challenge in clinical practice because they can mimic melanocytic and nonmelanocytic lesions with the risk of missing a melanoma. Confocal microscopy is a noninvasive method that has been shown to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis of pigmented and non pigmented lesions.

**Observation:** We present three couples of pink lesions with similar clinical and dermoscopic images which were referred to our dermatology department for confocal evaluation. The first set of lesions were pink-red plaques of recent onset developed on the leg of 2 female patients. The second set of images were nodular lesions of the chest from two adult male patients and the third set included a papular lesion on the arm of two young patients. Clinical and dermoscopic evaluation did not allow a definite diagnosis in all cases while confocal exam revealed an amelanotic melanoma with pagetoid cells and a superficial basal cell carcinoma in the first set of lesions, an amelanotic melanoma and fibroepithelioma of Pinkus in the second set and an atypical Spitz nevus and dermatofibroma in the last set. All lesions were excised, and confocal diagnosis was confirmed by histopathology.

**Conclusions:** A definite diagnosis may be difficult after clinical and dermoscopic examination of pink lesions. In this context additional evaluation by RCM may provide complementary information and might be helpful for the correct diagnosis.

