



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

CLINICAL AND DERMOSCOPIC FEATURES OF INVERTED FOLLICULAR KERATOSIS: A SINGLE INSTITUTION EXPERIENCE.

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Background: inverted follicular keratosis (IFK) is a benign skin cancer that is clinically characterized by small keratotic papules or plaques, usually located on the head and neck area of male patients. Histology shows a partially exophytic, hyperkeratotic tumor with acanthosis, mild papillomatosis and circumscribed hypergranulosis. The endophytic component is characterized by an inverted, well circumscribed lobule composed of basaloid and squamoid cells.

Observation: we performed a retrospective chart review of patients affected by histologically proven IFK in our Institution and we reviewed the dermoscopic images of these patients. A total of 19 caucasian patients were included in the study, 11 males and 8 females. Clinical presentation consisted in most of the cases in a pink-red papule located on the face (10 out of 19 patients, 53%). The most common dermoscopic feature was the presence of irregular hairpin vessels over a whitish background at the periphery of the lesions (15 out of 19 patients, 79%), followed by the presence of a central hyperkeratotic area or a central keratotic plug (11 out of 19 patients, 58%). Other dermoscopic features observed were hemorrhagic crusts, corneal pseudocysts, comedo-like openings, a milky-red background, a verrucous or cerebriform surface, irregular linear and polymorphous vessels, a homogeneous brown colour. We detected 5 different dermoscopic patterns, that we called squamous cell carcinoma-like, keratoacanthoma-like, wart-like, seborrheic keratosis-like and aspecific pattern.

Key message: even though dermoscopy of IFK do not have unique specific features, it can be a useful tool to improve the diagnosis of IFK. A dermoscopic pattern resembling a keratinocyte skin cancer is observed in most cases.

