



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

PIGMENTED LESIONS OF THE MUCOSAL AREA: HOW REFLECTANCE CONFOCAL MICROSCOPY CAN HELP IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF THESE CHALLENGING CASES.

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Introduction: Mucosal pigmented lesions on the genital and labial areas, including both benign and malignant lesions, are present in 10–12% of the general population. Mucosal melanoma is rare representing only 0.2–1.4% of all melanomas. Dermoscopy and Reflectance Confocal Microscopy (RCM) are non-invasive techniques which can help the clinicians in the diagnosis of such lesions.

Objective: To evaluate RCM criteria of benign and malignant lesions located on the oral and genital mucosa which can help the clinician to recognise melanoma at an early stage.

Materials and Methods: Female and male patients with genital and oral pigmented lesions were enrolled in this study from 1st September 2017 to 1st September 2018. For each patient we collected photographic, dermoscopic and RCM documentations and a punch-biopsy (4mm in diameter) for the suspicious lesions.

Results: A total of 31 patients (22 women and 9 men) with challenging pigmented lesions on the genital mucosa have been enrolled in one year. Among them 2 melanomas and 1 atypical nevus were found. Within the histology we reviewed all the dermoscopic and RCM images searching for specific diagnostic criteria for the melanoma diagnosis. The presence of dendritic cells is very frequent in mucosal lesions (almost 50% of our lesions) and can overestimate the risk of melanoma. Otherwise, the presence of pagetoid cells should be considered a warning signal to melanoma diagnosis.

Conclusions: RCM is a valuable tool to differentiate benign and malignant mucosal macules and to target biopsies in case of equivocal lesions.

