



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

## THE MANAGEMENT OF VERY SMALL PIGMENTED LESIONS

*Flavia Persechino<sup>(1)</sup> - Angela Ferrari<sup>(2)</sup> - Anna Carbone<sup>(2)</sup> - Chiara Franceschini<sup>(3)</sup> - Paolo Piemonte<sup>(2)</sup> - Alessandra Iorio<sup>(2)</sup> - Pierluigi Buccini<sup>(2)</sup> - Pasquale Frascione<sup>(2)</sup> - Carlo Cota<sup>(4)</sup> - Paola De Simone<sup>(2)</sup> - Laura Eibenshutz<sup>(2)</sup> - Marco Ardigò<sup>(5)</sup>*

*Sapienza University Of Rome Rome, Italy, Department Of Clinical And Molecular Medicine, Rome, Italy<sup>(1)</sup> - San Gallicano Dermatological Institute, Irccs, Rome., Oncologic And Preventative Dermatology,, Rome, Italy<sup>(2)</sup> - San Gallicano Dermatological Institute, Irccs, Rome., U.o.c. Clinical Dermatology, Rome, Italy<sup>(3)</sup> - San Gallicano Dermatological Institute, Irccs, Rome., Department Of Dermatopathology,, Rome, Italy<sup>(4)</sup> - San Gallicano Dermatological Institute, Ifo, Rome., U.o.c. Clinical Dermatology,, Rome, Italy<sup>(5)</sup>*

**Background:** Very small-size pigmented and non-pigmented lesions are common pitfall in the daily practice. The correct diagnosis is challenging because of lack of specific dermoscopic criteria. In these difficult cases, in order to get more information, Reflectance confocal microscopy (RCM) can be of effective support. RCM is a non-invasive imaging tool that has been already seen to improve the diagnostic accuracy of very small basal cell carcinoma. In this study we describe different confocal features of very small pigmented lesions, melanocytic and non-melanocytic, detected during clinical routine to underline the usefulness of RCM in the clinical management.

**Material/methods:** 170 small-size pigmented (<3 mm) lesions from different body sites, with uncertain clinical and dermoscopy diagnosis, were selected. Clinical picture, dermoscopy and RCM (VivaScope 1500®, Mavig GmbH, Munich, Germany) were performed. Lesions suspected for malignancy have been excised. All the collected data underwent retrospectively to expert reevaluation.

**Results:** Correlation between dermoscopy, RCM and histology disclosed an effective key role of RCM in the identification of helpful features as the presence of pagetoid cells in melanocytic lesions or detection of tumor nests in the upper dermis also in very small lesions.

**Conclusions** A correct differential diagnosis in early stage between melanocytic and non-melanocytic lesions is of utmost important for the correct management. RCM is an excellent technique to analyze and establish the correct diagnosis of very small-size pigmented lesions presenting features of malignancy that can potentially be misdiagnosed.

