



EPIDEMIOLOGY

ATYPICAL FIBROXANTHOMA. A 10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction and objectives: Atypical fibroxanthoma (AFX) is an uncommon tumor of uncertain histogenesis that usually appears as a solitary nodule in actinically damaged skin in the elderly. The objective of this study was to describe and analyze the epidemiological, clinical and histological characteristics of AFX.

Materials and methods: We made a research in the Pathological Anatomy Service database of every biopsy performed from 2006 through 2016 in our hospital with histological diagnosis of AFX. The following data were collected and analyzed retrospectively: sex, age, associated skin lesions, site, number, size and manner of presentation of the tumor, histological and immunohistochemical characteristics, as well as the initial clinical diagnosis and outcome of each patient.

Results: We report 38 cases of AFX appearing more commonly in males with an average age onset of 78 years. More than 70% of the patients had a history skin lesions such as actinic keratoses, basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas. The scalp was found to be the arising site in up to 19 cases, followed by the face, the auricular pavilion and only one on a foot. Clinical presentation varies from papule to nodule or tumor, but in all cases solitary, with an average size of 1.8 cm. Histologically, no difference was encountered. Finally, AFX was never the main clinical diagnosis, although the histological diagnosis and treatment delay was only of an average of 3 months, which allowed all patients except one to be cleared by surgery without clinical recurrence or metastasis.

Conclusions: In summary we present an outline of 38 patients diagnosed with AFX and a review of the literature concerning this subject. We found that our results correlate with other reports on this matter. In spite of its low frequency, every dermatologist should suspect it when appropriate to avoid aggressive development and inadequate treatments.

