



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

## A CASE OF ATYPICAL SUTTON NEVUS: DERMATOSCOPIC FEATURES

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Background: Sutton nevus is an acquired or congenital melanocytic nevus, typically surrounded by an achromic halo and commonly observed in the young population. Initially, an erythematous halo develops around the lesion (event if this phase may be absent). Then, the typical achromic perilesional aura develops. The entire nevus can then undergo regression, leaving a hypochromic area that may persist for years or present a gradual repigmentation. Histologically, it is characterized by the presence of a dense inflammatory dermal infiltrate consisting of T lymphocytes (CD4:CD8 ratio ranging from 1:1 to 1:3), numerous histocytic cells, apoptotic melanocytes and melanophages

Observation: A 52 year-old woman was admitted to our Department for nevi screening. In particular, the patient reported a recent drastic modification of a nevus, which was present from many years. At the clinical observation, the lesion appeared brownish-blackish and asymmetrical. Dermatoscopic observation revealed the presence of a not homogeneous black-brown-greyish color, radial striae, an area of partial regression to the upper pole of the lesion, a central keratotic component and a slight semicircular erythematous area, more evident at the lower pole of the lesion. Given the clinical and dermatoscopic signs of atypia, we decided to remove the lesion. The histological exam revealed a "dysplastic junctional melanocytic nevi in active regression phase (Sutton nevus)", diagnosis confirmed even after revision of histological samples.

Key message: The histological result of Sutton nevus for a lesion with these clinical characteristics, can displace the clinician. We hypothesized that the nevus was in an initial phase of transformation in Sutton nevus. Actually, the lesion presented a periferic erythematous area. Concerning the atypical signs of the lesion, we hypothesized that the inflammation surrounding the lesion was particularly exuberant, causing an important cyto-architectural disorder and consequently dermatoscopic anomalies.

