



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

BALLOON CELL NEVUS: REPORT OF THREE CASES

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Background: The balloon cell nevus (BCN) is an unusual variant of melanocytic lesion characterized histologically by a complete or predominant presence of balloon cell transformed melanocytes. Balloon cell transformation have been described in both benign and malignant melanocytic lesions. In 2% of melanocytic nevi, small foci of balloon cells can be observed, but a presence of more than 50% of these cells is considered qualification for diagnosis. BCNs are commonly reported in patients younger than 30 years, with no gender predominance. Clinically, they are indistinguishable from ordinary nevi. In contrast, dermoscopy may aid in recognition since they may exhibit some distinct dermoscopic features. Herein, we report three female patients with this unusual melanocytic lesion.

Observation: The three female patients included in the present report are: a 7 , a 14 and a 30-year-old with lesions located on the head, the upper part of the back and the right part of the back, respectively. The oldest patient had history of previously excised dysplastic nevus as well as positive family history for melanoma, while personal histories of other patients were uneventful. Dermoscopic examination revealed repetitive dermoscopic features in all 3 patients: white aggregated globules on a brown pigmented background. Considering the risky personal and family history of the oldest patient, excision of the lesion was performed. The histopathological report was consistent with the diagnosis of the balloon cell nevus. A follow-up on regular basis was suggested for the other two patients.

Key message: Despite its presence, the balloon cell transformation has no intrinsic clinical significance, dermatologist should be aware of this occurrence. In addition, both benign and malignant lesions can display balloon cell change which increases the potential for misdiagnosis.

