



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

## **BIG, HAIRY AND SCARY: A CASE OF A 25-YEAR-OLD FILIPINO FEMALE WITH MALIGNANT MELANOMA ARISING WITHIN A CONGENITAL MELANOCYTIC NEVUS**

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**Background:** Congenital Melanocytic Nevi is a rare condition with an estimated incidence of less than one in 20,000 newborns. Although benign, congenital melanocytic nevi is important because it may be associated with serious complications, such as malignant melanoma, regardless of their size, with a lifetime risk of 5%.

**Observation:** A 25-year old Filipino female from Oriental Mindoro, Philippines was seen at the outpatient clinic for a 6-month history of a rapidly growing, darkly pigmented, ulcerated nodule within the central portion of her congenital melanocytic nevus on the right thigh. There was no associated fever, weight loss, and malaise. Personal and social history showed no history of intermittent sun exposure. She denies weight loss, no cough, dyspnea, and no seizures. Past medical history was unremarkable. No personal and family history of cancer.

On physical examination, patient presented with light to dark brown papules coalescing into plaque with hypertrichosis around the nevus measuring 15cm x 9cm over the right posterolateral thigh with a central, darkly pigmented ulcerated nodule measuring 2x2 cm. No palpable lymphadenopathy during that time. Histopathology from a biopsy of her right thigh revealed foci of small groups of pigmented, atypical cells proliferating along elongated rete ridges and invading the reticular dermis. Thus, confirming the diagnosis of malignant melanoma arising within a congenital nevus.

Patient underwent wide excision of melanoma with inguinal lymph node dissection and split thickness skin graft harvested from the left thigh skin. Within 3 weeks post-operation, excellent skin pigmentation and granulation was achieved with no complications.

**Key message:** Congenital melanocytic nevus is a benign proliferation of melanocytes which can pose as a threat due to its risk for malignant melanoma. This case report outlines the diagnosis and management of a patient with a rare condition of cutaneous melanoma arising within a congenital melanocytic nevus.

