ABSTRACT BOOK

ABSTRACTS

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MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

ERUPTIVE CHERRY ANGIOMAS AND SKIN MELANOMA: RESULTS FROM AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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Background: as an early diagnosis is the main factor that can improve the prognosis of malignant melanoma (MM), screening programs to enhance its early detection have been defined. In a previous study, we found that eruptive cherry angiomas (CAs) were significantly associated with tumors.

Objective: to specifically assess the association between eruptive CAs and skin tumors, in particular MM. Secondary objective was to assess the association of MM and eruptive CAs in different age subgroups, a) ≤50 year-old subjects, b) 51-70 years, c) >70years.

Matherials and Methods: this cross-sectional study implemented a previous series, including all patients referred to outpatient dermatology-oncology units of the universities of Ferrara and Bologna, submitted to total body skin examination. We recorded: age, gender, cutaneous and non-cutaneous malignancies, chronic immunosuppressive treatments, presence of CAs. CAs were arbitrarily considered as "eruptive" when >10. Variables significantly associated to eruptive CAs, were included in the logistic regression analysis, also stratified for age.

Results: 1693 patients were included; 500 patients had tumours, 460 skin tumours, 263 had MM; 150 patients were immunosuppressed; 804 patients (47.49%) had eruptive CAs. In the entire study population, age, male sex, immunosuppressive treatment, MM, other skin tumors, and non-skin tumors resulted significantly associated with eruptive CAs at the univariate analysis and, except gender, at the multivariate analysis. Multivariate analysis in

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each age subgroup revealed that the association between MM and eruptive CAs was highly significant in younger patients (≤50 years), significant in the 51-70 year-old subgroup, whereas it lost significance in older patients.

Conclusions: these findings suggest an association between MM and eruptive CAs, particularly in the lower and intermediate age groups. Both the nature of this association and its possible impact in clinical practice, especially in melanoma screening, remain to be established.

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