



NAIL DISORDERS

CONSERVATIVE SURGERY FOR GIANT SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF NAIL UNIT.

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BACKGROUND: The subungual squamous cell carcinoma of the toe is a rare malignant tumor, with most cases occurring on hands. It has an indolent course and persists without standard therapy definition. We describe a case of a giant tumor affecting all the nail unit of left hallux with successful outcome after conservative surgical approach.

OBSERVATION: A 73 years old patient presented with a pain less injury on the left toe with 24 months of evolution. Into the examination, presence of verrucous plaque affecting and destroying all the nail unit. Diagnostic hypothesis of squamous cell carcinoma and verruca vulgaris were considered. Magnetic resonance imaging evidenced a vegetating lesion on the bed nail measuring 2,2 x 1,8 x 0,7cm compromising the dorsal face of phalanx, with no bone or articular involvement. Incisional biopsy was compatible with invasive verrucous squamous cell carcinoma. Aiming at maintaining the functionality of the distal phalanx, the treatment executed was the conservative surgical excision, despite the tumor large size. We proceeded to total resection of the nail unit, until, but not including, the bone structure and finished performing only a hemostatic suture with second intention healing. The histopathological analysis postoperative confirmed free margins of neoplasm. Clinical follow-up showed no evidence of recurrence 3 months after procedure.

KEY MESSAGE: The conservative surgery must be encouraged even in giants tumors, except when it involves bones. The cure rates reported in the literature are high, there is a low risk of complications and an increased level of patient satisfaction when compared with the negative impact of digital amputation in the quality of life.

