PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

MELANOMA-LIKE LESION IN DYSTROPHIC EPIDERMOLYSIS BULLOSA

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Background: Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) nevus is a rare melanocytic lesion that presents in 14% of patients with hereditary EB. Despite its striking resemblance to melanoma it is a benign lesion for which close follow up is recommended.

Observation: A 7 year old girl with hereditary dystrophic EB in yearly follow up presented with an atypical pigmented lesion >10 cm in diameter on her right ankle. Her parents described its onset as eruptive, with a rapid growth over a period of a few weeks. Clinical appearance led to a differential diagnosis between EB nevus and melanoma. Dermoscopy showed a heterogenous atypical melanocytic pattern. Histopathological analysis of two punch biopsies confirmed diagnosis of EB nevus. We opted for close follow up and the pigmented lesion showed a steady regression over successive visits.

Key message: EB nevus is a rare clinicopathological entity that arises in the context of hereditary epidermolysis bullosa. Due to its rapid growth and atypical appearance histopathological analysis is recommended in order to rule out melanoma. Considering the benign nature of this melanocytic lesion and its often large size, aggressive surgical treatment should be avoided. Close follow up is recommended.