



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## A CASE OF HYPERTROPIC LICHEN PLANUS MIMICKING MULTIPLE SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMAS

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**Background:** A 86 year old woman presented to a general dermatology clinic with a pruritic eruption over her forearms and lower legs developing three months post right hip replacement. Drug history included Lercanidipine, Indapamide, and Ramipril which were longstanding. New medications were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory tablets and oral morphine for postsurgical analgesia.

On initial presentation numerous 5mm scaly pink macules were noted over the upper and lower limbs. Topical dermivate was prescribed for a presumed drug reaction and the patient was listed for a diagnostic biopsy.

The patient presented again concerned as the initial macules over the lower legs had developed into numerous rapidly growing nodules up to 1cm in diameter.

Three representative diagnostic punch biopsies from the lower leg were histologically consistent with multiple squamous cell carcinoma with focal lichenoid inflammation. Punch biopsy from a macular lesion over the right arm was consistent with lichen planus.

A diagnosis of hypertrophic lichen planus mimicking multiple squamous cell carcinoma was made and the patient was commenced on systemic acitretin. Response was striking with resolution of the lower leg nodules and macular areas over the arm. The largest nodule over the left lower leg was excised as a precaution under the plastic surgical team and reported as a completely excised squamous cell carcinoma.

**Observation:** Pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia can be present in hypertrophic lichen planus which can mimic squamous cell carcinoma. Importantly squamous cell carcinoma may also develop within areas of lichen planus.

**Key Message:** This cases highlights the need to correctly identify hypertrophic lichen planus versus squamous cell carcinoma to avoid unnecessary surgical intervention.

Levandowski KA, Nazarian RM, Asgari MM. Hypertrophic lichen planus mimicking squamous cell carcinoma: The importance of clinicopathologic correlation. JAAD Case Rep. 2017 Mar 21;3(2):151-4.

