



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## AN UNUSUAL CASE OF PILOMATRIXOMA IN A BCC CONTEST

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**Background:** The Pilomatrixoma ( PMX) is a benign tumor of the hair follicle, initially thought to derive from glandular tissue. Pilomatrixoma accounts for 0.12% of all skin cancers and represents, in order of frequency, after the epidermoid cysts and the lymph nodes, the third cause of surgical excision among benign superficial skin lesions in the head / neck district. Histologically is characterized by peripheral basaloid cells that follow a differentiating keratinizing process in ghost cells and the presence of tumor islands with lobulated presentation. Basal Cell Carcinoma is the commonest malignant neoplasia of the skin. Its key feature is a basaloid epithelial tumor arising from the epidermis . The basaloid epithelium typically forms a palisade with a cleft forming from the adjacent tumor stroma . Centrally the nuclei become crowded with scattered mitotic figures and evident necrotic bodies.

**Observation:** We report the case of a 67-year-old patient who had, in the left parieto-occipital region, a dark colored plaque of 4 x 2.5 cm, present for several years and slowly growing. At the anterior pole of the lesion there was a small palpatory nodule, dominated by vascular-like bluish structures .The histology highlighted the presence of a Pilomatrixoma in the contest of a Basal Cell Carcinoma.

**Key message:** Up to date, about 15 cases of BCC with pilomatricial differentiation (or shadow cell BCCs) are described; some authors have suggested that this tumor could be an intermediate differentiation between PMX and Pilomatrix Carcinoma where shadow cells represent an abnormal way of cell death through defective keratinization. In literature there is only a single PMX report in a BCC contest, so it is an interesting case report of a rare lesion.

