



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## CUTANEOUS SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMAS ARISING ON HYPERTROPHIC LICHEN PLANUS

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**Background:** Hypertrophic lichen planus (HLP) is a rare subacute or chronic variant of lichen planus (LP), characterized by hyperkeratotic lesions usually located on the pretibial area of lower limbs.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is a malignant epithelial neoplasm that can affect skin and mucosae. Keratoacanthoma (KA) is actually considered a form of well differentiated cutaneous SCC (cSCC). cSCC is the second most common skin cancer and usually occurs in elderly sun-exposed skin, especially on face, forearms and hands.

**Observation:** We describe two cases of cSCC arising on HLP.

A 79-year-old woman presenting a rapid-growing bleeding nodule on the pretibial region of her right leg in an area of pruritic, erythematous and verrucous papules-plaques. Biopsies were performed, with the histological diagnosis of KA and HLP. HLP was treated with topical steroids, while KA with diathermic coagulation.

A 63-year-old woman, with a 20 years history of HLP of both legs, presenting on her left leg multiple ulcerated and keratotic nodules and on her right leg a big ulcerated plaque, all developed in HLP affected areas. At histological examination, the firsts appeared well differentiated SCC, while the second resulted an infiltrating medium-grade-differentiation SCC. This patient underwent radiotherapy.

Instead of oral mucosa LP, skin LP is not significantly associated with cSCC development. Most of cSCC developed on cutaneous LP have occurred in chronic HLP. This malignant conversion may be due to chronic inflammation that leads to epithelial cells proliferation and can create conditions for their degeneration.

**Key message:** The cases we have reported add to literature other examples of cSCC developed in HLP. Even if previous studies have showed no significant association between LP and epidermal degeneration in cSCC, this may not be true for HLP variant. For this reason, HLP patients may have to be tighter followed-up for possible neoplastic transformation.

