



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## FROM BURNS TO SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

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**Background:** Marjolin's ulcer is described as an aggressive form of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) arising within the limits of old scars, especially burns, after latency of decades. The terminology of ulcer/skin ulceration could create confusion, delay the surgical excision and the histological confirmation of malignancy.

**Observation:** Malignant transformation of ancient burns has been diagnosed in cases of non-ulcerative-like lesions, puzzling the classic expression "Marjolin's ulcer". Malignant degeneration in burn scars can be caught under different other diagnosis. We present case series of confirmed histologically squamous cell carcinoma in non-ulcerative skin lesions developed on previous burns, after latency of decades. Early diagnosis and prompt surgical therapy were recommended to all patients with chronic wounds and scars who develop malignant transformation.

**Key message:** Many cases are delayed in establishing a correct diagnosis and optimal medical care, despite of the high risk of metastases and poor prognosis.

Burns should be carefully evaluated and biopsied in case of any suspicion of malignancy. Labels such as "Marjolin's ulcer", "burn wound carcinoma," wound carcinoma" should be avoided because it involves the clinical idea of an ulceration and may induce confusion.

