



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

GIANT SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF THE HAND

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Background: Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (cSCC) is a common skin cancer characterized by the malignant proliferation of keratinizing cells of the epidermis or its appendages, usually arising from precursor lesion, but can also grow de novo or on irradiated skin. cSCC can metastasize initially to regional lymph nodes and subsequently to distant sites which is associated with a dismal prognosis and a median survival of less than 2 years.

Observation: We present a 65 y.o. female patient with a giant tumor on the dorsal side of the right hand, with lobularized surface, covered with hemorrhagic crusts and necrotic areas, demarcated from the other part of the hand with a tight-elastic edge, surrounded by erythematous nodules. The tumor confluated with a smaller one nearby the wrist, with the same characteristics. The patient reported the occurrence of the lesions one year ago and a significant increase in their size in the last month. She was originally treated for actinic keratosis by different dermatologists before the lesion started to grow. The histological test showed total infiltration of the soft tissue of the palm of moderately differentiated squamous cell cancer with moderate keratinization. The MRI that was performed confirmed significant infiltration by the neoplastic process and the patient was referred for amputation of the right forearm. Six months later no metastasis was detected and the patient is in good general condition, except for the right hand.

Key message: We would like to draw your attention to the rapid development and serious consequences of unrecognized and undiagnosed cSCC.

