

SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## HOW RELIABLE IS HISTOLOGY IN MYCOSES FUNGOIDES? - A CASE SERIES OF A RARE SKIN CANCER SEEN IN A NIGERIAN TERTIARY HOSPITAL

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**Introduction:** Mycoses fungoides (MF) is a relatively rare skin cancer of the cutaneous T-cell lymphoma family. It presents insidiously, mimicking other dermatoses, both clinically and histologically at different stages; ranging from the initial patch stage to the plaque, nodular and ulcerative stages of the disease which represent very advanced disease. These changing phases/faces of MF hamper definitive diagnosis, thereby increasing morbidity and mortality from the disease.

**Aim:** to document the varying histological patterns of MF and emphasize the need for a high index of suspicion and other diagnostic criteria.

**Method:** retrospective review of clinical case folders of patients seen between 2015 to July 2018. Those with clinical diagnoses of Mycoses Fungoides and/ or CTCL were extracted. Details on demographic data, presenting clinical features and histology findings were extracted. There were ten patients seen with clinical diagnoses of MF/CTCL; however only six could carry out biopsies to confirm MF/CTCL whilst 2 had further immunohistochemistry

**Results:** One biopsy result is awaited; parakeratoses was reported in (3; 60%) of cases, monomorphic lymphocyte infiltrates (3; 60%), epidermotropism (4; 80%), band like upper dermal infiltrates (4; 80%), mild spongiosis of epidermis (1; 20%), haloed lymphocytes (4; 80%) and dermal fibrosis (2: 40%). There were no reported findings of Pautrier's microabscesses, follicular mucin or eccrine infiltration. The two patients who could carry out immunohistochemistry had CD3+, CD4+ and CD8+ positivity; with CD7+ in one.

**Conclusion:** The phases/ faces of MF are both clinically and histologically non- specific, as they can mimic many other inflammatory dermatoses. Whilst a few histological features are suggestive, there is need to develop more accepted histopathology diagnostic criteria as



immunohistochemistry is not easily available or affordable in Nigeria.

