



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## IMPORTANCE OF SURGICAL EXCISION OF LESION FOR HISTOPATHOLOGY EXAMINATION, RATHER THAN ELECTROCAUTERY ABLATION.

*Devaraj Dinesh Kumar<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Dr Dinesh's Skin & Hair Clinic, Department Of Dermatology, Chennai, India<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Background:** Amongst Indians, incidence of Squamous Cell Carcinoma and other skin cancers is low due to melanin's protective effects. Most cases of Squamous Cell Carcinoma in India are diagnosed in medical colleges, due to availability of resources. It is uncommon for cases of skin cancers to land in a private clinic of a practicing dermatologist. Most often due to large number of patients in a private clinic, atypical cases of skin cancer can be misdiagnosed and mismanaged. Most of skin outgrowths are removed by radiofrequency ablation and generally the tissue is not sent for histopathological examination. This leads inaccurate statistics and still worse for patients, can lead to an aggressive course of the malignancy.

**Observations:** A 58-year-old male presented to outpatient clinic of a private dermatologist with history of skin outgrowth over dorsal aspect of right knee since last two years. Patient has been examined by few dermatologists, who had advised electrocautery ablation. During a routine visit to the author's clinic, it was observed that the lesion was pedunculated. There was no regional or generalised lymphadenopathy. Clinically a differential diagnosis of Verruca, Pyogenic granuloma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma was put forth. As SCC was a differential, the lesion was surgically excised, tissue sent for histopathological examination. Electrocautery was not used. Histopathology revealed invasive squamous cell carcinoma with nests of tumour cells infiltrating the dermis with lateral margins showing tumour tissue. Patient was referred to an Oncosurgeon for wide excision.

**Key message:** Though the lesion mimicked a verruca, and was advised electrocautery removal by few dermatologists, a decision to surgically excise the lesion was taken since the possibility of SCC was considered. This was proved right with histopathology. In case of a faint doubt of malignancy, it is prudent to surgically excise than do an electrocautery which may alter the pathology.

