



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## PRIMARY ANGIOSARCOMA OF THE HEAD AND NECK OF THE ELDERLY: A RARE CASE REPORT

*Harshal Ranglani<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Goa Medical College, Department Of Dermatology, Venereology And Leprology, Panaji, India<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Background:** Primary angiosarcoma of the skin is a relatively rare tumor, of vascular origin, with a highly aggressive nature and high rate of mortality. Its presentation varies from a small plaque to multifocal nodules.

**Observation:** A 75-year old man presented with a rapidly enlarging lesion over the left side of the face and scalp of two months duration. There was history of occasional bleeding from the lesion on minor trauma. On examination, there was an erythematous, infiltrated plaque covering the entire left parietal region of the scalp, extending onto the temporal area, forehead, cheeks, ears and neck. Its surface was studded with multiple, bluish-red, compressible nodules, vascular in appearance. There were discrete, purpuric patches on the right forehead, right side of scalp and nose. Bilateral cervical lymphadenopathy was present. On histopathology, multiple irregular vascular spaces filled with red blood cells, along with interspersed spindle cells and areas of hemorrhage were noted. Immunohistochemistry for CD34 was positive. FNAC of enlarged cervical lymph nodes was positive for malignant cells. Detailed investigations did not reveal distant metastases. On clinicopathological correlation, a diagnosis of primary cutaneous angiosarcoma of the head and neck of the elderly, multifocal in origin, was made.

**Key message:** Primary angiosarcoma of the head and neck of the elderly are rare but aggressive neoplasms with a high rate of mortality. They may be misdiagnosed initially as ecchymoses or purpura. It is difficult to treat due to its multicentric occurrence and the presence of extensive microscopic spread that is quite common in these tumors. The treatment is wide excision of the lesion to achieve histologically tumor-free margins. Our patient was advised radiotherapy as excision of such a wide area was not possible. A high index of suspicion will enable early diagnosis and prompt treatment of this malignancy, translating into better prognosis.

