SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

# SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA ARISING ON ACROKERATOSIS VERRUCIFORMIS OF HOPF

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Acrokeratosis verruciformis of Hopf (AVH) is a rare genetic disease with autosomal dominant inheritance, often diagnosed during childhood. Sporadic cases were also reported. Squamous cell carcinoma transformation is a very rare complication of this disorder.
We present the case of a 62-years-old male patient who addressed the Dermatology Department for a painful ulceration located on the left shin which had first occurred approximately 6 months beforehand and had progressively enlarged. The personal history revealed the patient had been diagnosed with AVH since the age of 42 years. The family history was insignificant.
Clinical examination revealed an ulceration with irregular, elevated margins partially covered by hematic crusts, with a diameter of 5 centimeters, located on the left shin. The ulceration was surrounded by scarring and verrucous plaques. Multiple verrucous plaques with white pearly center and pigmented margins, with no subjective symptoms, were also present on both shins and the dorsum of the feet.
Routine laboratory tests were insignificant. Two biopsies were performed, one from the ulcerated lesion and another from a lesion that showed no ulceration. The first biopsy showed ortokeratosis with irregular acanthosis and islands of squamous cells with important pleomorphism and abundant inflammatory infiltrate confirming the clinical suspicion of squamous cell carcinoma. The second biopsy showed hyperortokeratosis with marked irregular acanthosis, focal hypergranulosis, elongation of the rete ridges and dense inflammatory infiltrate in the papillary dermis, giving the characteristic aspect of AVH (“church spire”) with no squamous cell carcinoma transformation. The patient was referred to the plastic surgery department and after surgical excision, radiotherapy was recommended.
The case is remarkable through its particularity: squamous cell carcinoma arising on acrokeratosis verruciformis of Hopf, only a small number of such cases being reported so far.