



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## THE PENDANT EARRING: AN AGGRESSIVE BASAL CELL CARCINOMA IN A PARTICULAR KIND OF PRESENTATION.

*T Peduto<sup>(1)</sup> - C Blasio<sup>(1)</sup> - M Scalvenzi<sup>(1)</sup> - L Gallo<sup>(1)</sup>*

*University Of Naples Federico II, Department Of Dermatology, Naples, Italy<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Background:** Basal cell carcinoma represents the most common skin cancer and involves the head and neck area in 80% to 85% of all patients treated. Despite its frequent occurrence, metastatic spread from this tumor is rare. Although rarely fatal, BCC can be highly destructive and disfigure local tissues when treatment is inadequate or delayed. This paper presents a case of a patient who had a metastasizing basal cell carcinoma localized in the auricular region.

**Observation:** A 68-year-old white woman presented in June 2018 with an almost total earlobe detachment up to helix and with a deep ulcerative and exuding lesion of the retroauricular furrow. The patient told these lesion occurred in 2 weeks and there was no pain or tenderness associated with the lesion. A wide resection of the external ear was performed during the visit and an histological study was conducted on the withdrawn tissue. Clinical and histological appearance suggested the diagnosis of infiltrating and metastatic basal cell carcinoma. Permanent pathology revealed nests of BCC present in the epidermis. Staging showed cranial bones invasion and parotid metastasis, and no lymph nodes were involved. On July 2018 the patient started vismodegib treatment of metastatic and locally advanced BCC, because it wasn't treatable via surgery or radiation.

**Key message:** Basal cell carcinoma is reported to have a relatively good prognosis because of its slow and local evolution. However, some cancer types, such as infiltrative tumor occurring in some high-risk areas, including the auricular region, can be rapidly devastating, mutilating and voluminous with aesthetic and functional impairments as well as difficult to manage. In our experience Vismodegib represents a promising treatment option for patients with surgically non-resectable and specially ulcerative BCCs that are not candidates for radiation therapy.

