



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

UNUSUAL CASE OF CARCINOMA ERYSIPELOIDES AS PRESENTATION OF CUTANEOUS METASTASIS OF BREAST CANCER

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Background: The carcinoma erysipeloides (CE) is a distinct and infrequent manifestation of cutaneous metastasis, due to the obstruction of the lymphatic vessels of the dermis and the subcutaneous cellular tissue by metastatic cells. Classically it presents as an erythematous and infiltrated plaque, with sharp edges on the chest wall, of rapid evolution, which clinically resembles erysipelas. It constitutes about 1% of the metastases of breast cancer and is often considered a marker of tumor recurrence and poor prognosis. The average life expectancy is two years from the time of diagnosis. The median duration of onset of inflammatory changes of the skin before the diagnosis of malignancy is 10 weeks. The histopathology of inflammatory carcinoma is characterized by the deposition of malignant cells compacted within the superficial and deep lymphatics of the dermis without the pathological evidence of acute inflammation, such as the absence of inflammatory cells. Thus, lymphatic embolization of the dermis with tumor cells is the hallmark of CE. Immunohistochemistry reveals the presence of CK7 and CKAE1 / AE3 markers and negative for estrogen and progesterone receptors.

Observation: A 43-year-old female patient with adenocarcinoma of the right breast submitted to radical mastectomy 1 year ago developed an infiltrated and well delimited erythematous plaque in the right anterior thoracic region with three months of evolution. Cutaneous biopsy revealed lymphatic embolization with nests of malignant neoplastic cells in the superficial and deep dermis, compatible with breast adenocarcinoma. The patient was informed of the diagnosis and continued in palliative treatment with chemotherapy.

Key message: CE is a challenge, with a frequent delay in diagnosis, which is often confused with erysipelas. The recognition of this pathology by the dermatologist is of fundamental importance: it makes possible the early diagnosis, which can provide greater survival for the patients.

