



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

VERRUCOUS CARCINOMA OF THE WRIST

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Background: Verrucous carcinoma is an uncommon, low-grade squamous cell carcinoma. It typically affects the oral cavity, larynx, genitalia, esophagus, and rarely the skin. It manifests as a wide, slowly growing papillomatous tumors with sometimes multiples crypts and sinuses. Most cases reported were seen on the soles. Histologically, the diagnosis can be difficult because of the misleading benign aspect of the tumor with very few cellular and nuclear atypia and low mitotic activity. Verrucous carcinomas are good prognostic tumors that rarely metastasize. A complete surgical excision is usually sufficient, but relapses are not rare. However, these tumors should not be irradiated because of the risk of anaplastic transformation.

Observation: A 78-year-old man presented with a large papillomatous tender, renitent tumor on the back of the wrist and fingers with many crypts discharging fetid yellowish material. The rest of the examination revealed no other abnormalities.

Bacteriological and mycological tests were negative and multiples biopsies were performed revealing very little specific signs. After radiological examination that confirmed that the lesion was restrained in the skin, the patient underwent a surgical excision of the whole lesion with 10 mm margins as we couldn't confirm the benign or malignant nature of the lesion. Histological examination of the excised tissues finally concluded to a verrucous carcinoma with clear margins. Control after surgery revealed a good aesthetic result with no signs of relapse after one year of follow up.

Key points: Verrucous carcinoma of the skin is a rare variant of squamous cell carcinoma with a better prognosis. The diagnosis of this kind of tumors is usually difficult since the histopathological aspect can sometime be misleading with very few specific signs, as it was the case in our observation. It's therefore important to insist on taking large and deep biopsies sometimes in multiples sites to avoid misdiagnosis.

