



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

CUTANEOUS METASTASES FROM PRIMARY INTERNAL MALIGNANCIES IN A BRAZILIAN CANCER CENTER

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Background: Cutaneous metastases are characterized by infiltration of dermis and/or subcutaneous tissue by proliferating cells from distant cancers. Cell spread can occur at any time of neoplastic process, and it can be the first manifestation of internal malignancy. The incidence of cutaneous metastases is unknown and may vary according to biological characteristics of cancers among populations. We report the casuistic of cutaneous metastases of a Cancer Center in Brazil.

Observation: This retrospective analysis summarizes clinicopathologic findings in cutaneous metastases of internal malignancies from a Cancer Center from 2012 to 2018. Primary skin and hematologic malignancies were excluded from this analysis. We identified 40 cases (13 men, 27 women) of cutaneous metastases including breast, gastrointestinal tract, lung, kidney, uterus, spine, ovary, and two undetermined primary site. Breast and rectum cancer were the most common (42,5% and 7,5% respectively). Mean age at diagnosis was 56,5 years (30-91 years). Thirty-six cases (90%) developed cutaneous metastases after diagnosis of the primary tumor, median of 17,5 months (2 months to 12 years). Almost sixty-eight percent (27 of 40) of the patients had known widespread metastases to other organs. The lesions were more often seen as confluent infiltrated papules and plaques, smooth nodules, with sclerotic aspect, sometimes with ulceration and with zosteriform distribution. Thorax (40%) was the predominant site, followed by head (25%). The vast majority were correctly identified as metastasis by the dermatologist before the histopathologic diagnosis. Thirty patients died (75%), mean overall survival was 82,7 days after diagnosis.

Key message: Our series reinforces that cutaneous involvement portend a very poor prognosis and often flare up simultaneously with other metastases. With increasing incidence of cancers, early diagnosis will be the key element, requiring careful dermatological examination, as cutaneous metastases may present a wide morphologic spectrum, may be the first manifestation of an internal malignancy.

