

SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

SKIN METASTASIS OF HORMONE THERAPY RESISTANT PROSTATE ADENOCARCINOMA TO THE INGUINAL REGION

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Background: Adenocarcinoma of the prostate gland is the second most common malignancy in males, and it is well known to disseminate to bones, lymphatic nodes and viscera. Skin metastases of prostatic origin are quite uncommon. The combination of clinical history, physical examination, laboratory tests and routine pathology can often provide enough information for a conclusive diagnosis of metastatic prostatic adenocarcinoma.

Observation: A 86-year-old man presented with 1 month history of multiple erythematous papulonodular lesions variable in size on pubic and inguinal region. These lesions were asymptomatic. The patient was followed up in the urology department with the diagnosis of prostate adenocarcinoma. We were consulted on the development of patient skin lesions. He was receiving hormone therapy. Punch biopsy of one of the nodules showed infiltration of the dermis by cells arranged in a glandular pattern consistent with adenocarcinoma, and immunohistochemical staining for prostate specific antigen and NKX3.1 was positive.

Key message: Cutaneous metastases of internal malignancies are uncommon, with rates ranging from 0.6 to 10%. Most prostate cancer death occurs in the setting of metastatic disease and bone represents the most common site of distant metastasis. In contrast, cutaneous metastasis occurs in less than 1% of cases.

Clinically, the cutaneous lesions presented as multiple hard nodules in 56 cases (72%), single nodule in 11 (14%), edema or lymphedema in 5 (7%), and unspecific rash in 5 (7%). The most frequent site for the cutaneous involvement was the inguinal area and the penis.

Therapeutic options reported for similar cases of prostatic carcinoma with cutaneous metastasis are primarily palliative and include tumor excision, radiation, intralesional chemotherapy (i.e., leuprolide), and treatment of the primary neoplasia.

Although cutaneous metastasis is an uncommon presentation of prostate cancer, in rapidly growing cutaneous nodules, especially on perineal region, prostate carcinoma should be kept in mind.