



VASCULAR DISEASE, VASCULITIS

A RARE CASE OF VERRUCOUS HEMANGIOMA: AN OPTIMIZED LASER APPROACH

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Background: Verrucous hemangioma is a rare vascular proliferation that usually presents at birth or in early childhood, although they may appear later or even in adult life. Verrucous hemangioma is usually located on the lower extremities where it presents as solitary or multiple hyperkeratotic nodules and sometimes shows linear distribution of the lesions. Histopathologically, it is characterized by the proliferation of small vessels in the dermis and subcutaneous tissue, and the superficial epidermis usually shows a papillary appearance with ectatic vessels mimicking angiokeratomas.

Observation: A 22 year-old female patient presented with a slowly-enlarging solitary, hyperkeratotic grayish tumor over the lateral aspect of the right leg accompanied by episodes of pruritus, pain and serous discharge noted since childhood. It was aggravated by a 3-year history of repeated trauma over the same site. Biopsy revealed verrucous hemangioma. Initial treatment done was carbon dioxide laser debulking under local anesthesia. One month post-debulking, the patient noted improvement with decrease in size of the lesion and subsequent formation of granulation tissue. The patient likewise underwent Nd:YAG laser therapy six months post-carbon dioxide laser debulking procedure with note of marked improvement from baseline.

Key message: Treatment of verrucous hemangioma can be difficult and recurrence is common. Surgery should always be considered for these patients, though laser treatment should be tried beforehand. In addition, mechanical irritation including repeated trauma may be an inducing factor for verrucous hemangioma. Dermatologists need to consider a diagnosis of verrucous hemangioma when a verrucous nodule is observed in the lower extremities if there is a history of trauma to avoid misdiagnosis.

