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Dr. Roshan Nayak
Assistant Professor,
Department of General
Surgery, Kasturba Medical
College, Manipal, Karnataka,
India

Verrucous hemangioma: A potential differential diagnosis for malignant melanoma: A case report and review

Dr. Roshan Nayak

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Abstract

Verrucous hemangioma is a very uncommon type of vascular malformation which closely mimics malignant melanoma. It is known to cause reactive changes in the overlying epidermis such as acanthosis, hyperkeratosis and papillomatosis. Its usual site of presentation is lower extremities and very slowly increases in size. We present a case of 18 year old boy who had a black mole over medial malleoli of left foot since birth and now has suddenly started to increase in size since past 2 months.

Keywords: Verrucous hemangioma, malignant melanoma, hyperkeratosis

Introduction

Verrucous hemangiomas are a very rare type of hemangiomas. However these lesion closely mimics malignant melanoma and should be kept in mind before clinically diagnosing the patient with malignant melanoma. Verrucous hemangiomas are usually congenital, vascular malformation and under the microscope these are characterized by large cavernous spaces and dilated capillaries, lined by endothelium. These dilated spaces extend into the reticular dermis and subcutaneous fat. There is reactive hyperplasia with marked hyperkeratosis, acanthosis and papillomatosis on the overlying epidermis. Appropriate treatment is wide local excision, as chances of recurrence is very high in verrucous hemangioma.

Case Report

A 18 year old male patient presented with a history of blackish patch over the medial malleoli of left foot since birth which was initially 0.5 x 0.5 cm and had gradually progressed to size of 2 x 2 cm over a period of 18 years, but for the past 2 months the lesion rapidly increased to a size of 5 x 5 cm associated with greyish discoloration and irregularity of the surface. There was no associated bleeding from the lesion. There were no other similar lesion anywhere else in the body. On examination, there was a greyish ulceroproliferative papular lesion measuring 5 x 5 cm, with areas of cresting over it. Ulcer does not bleed on touch. There was induration of the margin (figure 1).no palpable inguinal group of lymph nodes. X-ray foot showed no bone involvement (figure 2). We made a clinical diagnosis of malignant melanoma and patient underwent wide local excision of the lesion with more than 2 cm margin was done and the specimen was sent for histopathological examination.

Pathological Findings

Specimen showed single skin covered tissue mass externally showing verrucous greyish black growth measuring 3 x 2.5 x 1 cm. on cut section verrucous lesion appears superficial with underlying dermis shows congestion. Margins are free. Features suggestive of Verrucous Hemangioma.

Discussion

One of the most uncommon, congenital vascular malformation is verrucous hemangioma. It is a well localized tumor. It was first described by Halter in 1937. These lesions are usually seen in lower extremities and are present at birth or develops during early childhood. The frequent complication of this lesion changes its original bluish red surface to verrucous and warty surface [2]. This lesion mimics several other skin lesions such as angiokeratoma, lymphangioma circumscriptum, verrucous carcinoma and even malignant melanoma [3]. It can have a linear or serpiginous fashion of presentation [4]. Extensive hyperkeratosis, acanthosis and papillomatosis overlying the large cavernous spaces and dilated capillaries

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Roshan Nayak
Assistant Professor,
Department of General
Surgery, Kasturba Medical
College, Manipal, Karnataka,
India

located in the dermis and hypodermis are the typical histological features of verrucous hemangioma. There could be fibrosis, inflammatory reaction and hemosiderin deposition in the dermis. When immunohistochemistry is done CD 31, CD 34 and GLUT 1 may highlight the endothelial cells. Treatment is wide local excision to avoid possible recurrence ^[5]. For the lesion like vascular nodules, papules and plaques with a hyperkeratotic bluish red nodular appearance located on the lower extremities a possible diagnosis of verrucous hemangioma should be considered ^[6].



Fig 1



Fig 2

Conclusion

We present this case because of its rarity and its close resemblance to melanoma which made us clinical diagnose the case as melanoma until the final histopathology was reported as verrucous hemangioma.

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Conflict of Interest

Not available

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