

Periungual SCC with verrucous clinical presentation

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Background

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the periungual area is a rare malignant tumor that has its origins in the nail bed.^{1,2} Bone invasion occurs in 20% of all cases.¹ The etiology of this tumor is still under discussion, having a strong connection with HPV infection, exposure to radiations or local trauma.^{3,4} SCC of the nail has the reputation of being a great mimicker because of the clinical presentation that can vary and the resemblance with other type of benign or malignant lesions of the nail unit.²



Figure 1. Macroscopic image of the lesion

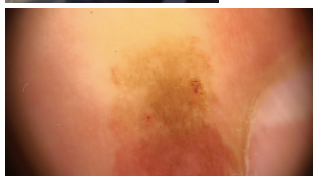


Figure 2.



Figure 5.



Figure 3.

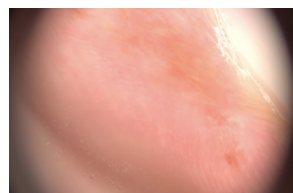


Figure 4.

Figures 2,3,4,5. Dermoscopic images of the lesion

Case report

A 36-year-old Caucasian male patient presented in our clinic for evaluation of a warty lesion, which has been present on his 4th right finger, periungual for 6 months. (Figure 1) It has not responded to topical treatments for warts. In spite of the topical therapies, the lesion continued to increase in size and also to become more irritated and pruritic. The patient has no other health issue and no history of chronic or recent medication.

Dermatologic examination showed a verrucous looking lesion on the fourth finger of the right hand located periungual, with no crust to cover it. The rest of the skin examination was clear, with no other lesions. Dermoscopy of the lesion was performed showing a verrucous-like lesion. (Figures 2,3,4,5) A biopsy was performed, which showed pleomorphic parakeratosis, diffuse atypical keratinocytes, with pleomorphic nucleus and occasional abnormal mitotic figures, thus leading to a diagnosis of in situ verrucous spinocellular carcinoma. Further, a complete excision with clear margins was performed. A close follow-up of the patient is recommended in case of recurrence.

Conclusions

SCC of the nail unit can run an indolent course, associating minimal symptomatology.² Even though in most cases the verrucous-like SCC appear in immunosuppressed patients, in this case no evidence of any kind of immunosuppression was noticed.⁵

References

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