Verrucous-Keratotic Malignant Melanoma (VKMM)

Nikolay Damianov1, Michael Tronnier2, Nely Koleva3, Uwe Wollina4, Serena Gianfaldoni5, Torello Lotti6, Jacopo Lotti7, Katlein França8, Atanas Batashki9, Hrisito Mangarov10, Georgi Tchernev11

1Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior, (MVR-Sofia), Department of General, Vascular and Abdominal Surgery, General Skobelev 79, 1606 Sofia, Bulgaria; 2Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology, Helios Klinikum GMBH Hildesheim Senator-Braun-Allee 33 – 31315 Hildesheim, Germany; 3Department of Pathology, Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior (MVR), Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, General Skobelev 79, 1606 Sofia, Bulgaria; 4Department of Dermatology and Allergology, Academic Teaching Hospital Dresden-Friedrichstadt, Friedrichstrasse 41, 01067, Dresden, Germany; 5University G. Marconi of Rome, Rome Italy; 6University of Rome “G.Marconi”, Rome, Italy; 7Department of Nuclear, Subnuclear and Radiation Physics, University of Rome “G. Marconi”, Rome, Italy; 8Institute for Bioethics & Health Policy; Department of Dermatology & Cutaneous Surgery; Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine - Miami, FL, USA; 9Abdominal and Thoracic Surgery, Department of Special Surgery, Medical University of Plovdiv, bul. "Peshtersko shose” Nr 66, 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 10Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior (MVR), Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, General Skobelev 79, 1606 Sofia, Bulgaria; 11Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior (MVR), Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, General Skobelev 79, 1606 Sofia, Bulgaria; Onkoderma”. Policlinic for Dermatology, Venereology and Dermatologic Surgery, 26 General Skobelev Blvd., Sofia, Bulgaria

Abstract

We report a patient with a verrucous keratotic variant of melanoma visiting the policlinic of Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior (MVR-Sofia), Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic surgery, with a keratotic verrucous lesion, located on the right thigh, partially deeply pigmented at upper right quadrant. The lesion had appeared three years ago before her presentation in the policlinic, and it had gradually enlarged and become darker in the last twelve months. The surface of the lesion was covered with thick hyperkeratotic lobules. The histologic evaluation revealed verrucous melanoma with a tumour thickness of 3 mm and Clark Level IV and focal ulceration. The tumour was staged as stage IIB (T3bN0M0). Sentinel lymph node biopsy was planned. Verrucous-keratotic forms of malignant melanoma occur more commonly in women and favour the extremities, but may be found on any anatomic site. Seventy-one percent of this melanoma type are situated on the upper and lower extremities. Although two-thirds of these neoplasms can be can be histologically graded according to the classification of Clark, one-third of these melanomas with marked verrucous hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis of the epidermis do not fit into his classification. Histological classification of patients with a verrucous keratotic type of melanoma may sometimes be extremely difficult. The marked papilliferous architecture of these lesions made an assessment of Breslow depth difficult. The presented case highlights the clinical existence and features of such benign-looking melanomas. It is therefore important for surgical pathologists to recognise this unusual variant of malignant melanoma, as it may be confused both clinically and pathologically with benign lesions.

The verrucous keratotic melanoma seems to be a rare variant of the cutaneous melanoma that can be often misdiagnosed with a benign lesion [1]. We report a patient with a verrucous keratotic variant of melanoma visiting the policlinic of Medical Institute of Ministry of Interior (MVR-Sofia), Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic surgery, with a keratotic verrucous lesion, located on the right thigh, partially deeply pigmented at upper right quadrant (Fig. 1a, 1b). The lesion had appeared three years ago before her presentation in the policlinic, and it had gradually enlarged and become darker in the last twelve months (Fig. 1a, 1b). Physical examination revealed an oval shaped, partially black plaque, slightly elevated, 5.2 x 3.6 cm in size (Fig. 1a, 1b). The surface of the lesion was covered with thick hyperkeratotic lobules. The histologic evaluation (after the surgical removal with 2 cm surgical safety in all directions) revealed Verrucous melanoma with a tumour thickness of 3 mm and Clark Level IV and focal ulceration (Fig. 1c-1f). The tumour was staged as stage IIB (T3bN0M0). Sentinel lymph node biopsy was planned.

Verrucous malignant melanoma (VMM) is a
A rare variant of melanoma first described in 1967 [2]. Both clinically and histologically, it mimics SK [3, 4]. Some intradermal and compound nevi have been described as showing hyperkeratosis, papillomatosis, horn cysts, and lace-like downward growth of epidermal strands [5]. Though specific causative factors linking SK-like epidermal changes are still unknown, it is possible that both nevi and melanomas can release some epidermal cell growth factors, thereby inducing changes in the overlying epidermis [5].

Verrucous-keratotic forms of malignant melanoma occur more commonly in women and favour the extremities, but may be found on any anatomic site [3]. Seventy-one percent of this melanoma type are situated on the upper and lower extremities [3]. Although two-thirds of these neoplasms can be histologically graded according to the classification of Clark, one-third of these melanomas with marked verrucous hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis of the epidermis do not fit into his classification [3]. Histological classification of patients with a verrucous keratotic type of melanoma may sometimes be extremely difficult [3]. The marked papilliferous architecture of these lesions made an assessment of Breslow depth difficult [6]. The presented case highlights the clinical existence and features of such benign-looking melanomas. It is therefore important for surgical pathologists to recognise this unusual variant of malignant melanoma, as it may be confused both clinically and pathologically with benign lesions [3, 6].

References