

Pigmented Basal Cell Carcinoma of Eyelid: A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Pigmented basal cell carcinoma is a rare cutaneous variant of BCC with very few cases reported. Exposure to sunlight is the most important environmental risk factor. Pigmented basal cell carcinoma is a very rare variant of basal cell carcinoma that exhibits increased pigmentation. As it is rare, thereby we report here the case of Pigmented basal cell carcinoma on eyelid.

Keywords: Pigmented, Basal Cell Carcinoma, Eyelid.

INTRODUCTION

BCC was first described in the year 1827 by Jacob.^[1] It is a slow-growing tumor which is locally invasive affecting mainly the Caucasians which tends to infiltrate surrounding tissues in a three-dimensional contiguous fashion with limited potential to metastasize.^[2] The metastatic rate ranges from 0.0028% to 0.55%.^[3] Most cases of BCC occur on the face, followed by trunk and extremities. The three main histologic subtypes of BCC are nodular, superficial, and morpheaform. Rarely, whenever there is variable amounts of melanin, it is referred to as pigmented BCCs.^[4]

CASE REPORT

A 48-year-old male presented with a melanocytic lesion over the right lower lid, since a year. Patient had a complaint of watery discharge from the reddish elevated lesion associated with itching and photosensitivity. The lesion had enlarged to present size of 1*1cms over a period of 1 year.

On examination, the surface showed thickened pigmented growth on right lower eyelid. The borders were raised and irregular in outline. No regional lymphadenopathy was found. All routine investigations were normal.

Systemic examination was within normal limits.

Gross specimen received in Pathology department

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showed multiple blackish soft tissue pieces measuring 1*1cm. On microscopy, tumour cells found to be arranged in nesting pattern, with characteristic basaloid cells showing elongated hyperchromatic nuclei with scant cytoplasm. The tumor also exhibits peripheral palisading and peritumoral clefting. Melanin pigment is seen in the dermis intervening the tumor nests.

Differential diagnosis of melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma were considered on clinical examination, but ruled out on histopathology.

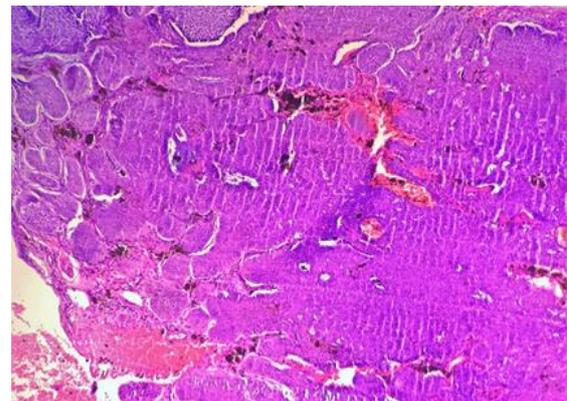


Figure 1: Photomicrograph nesting of tumor cells exhibiting peripheral palisading.

DISCUSSION

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common slow growing malignancy in white people.⁵ Pigmented basal cell carcinoma is a clinical and a histological variant of BCC which is characterized by brown or black pigmentation, comprising only of 6% of total BCCs.^[1] Most of the BCC overexpress p53

protein.⁶The most common age group affected is 40 to 60 years with male preponderance.⁷Maloney et al in their study also concluded that out of 1039 cases of BCC,70(6.7%) cases were of Pigmented Basal cell carcinoma.

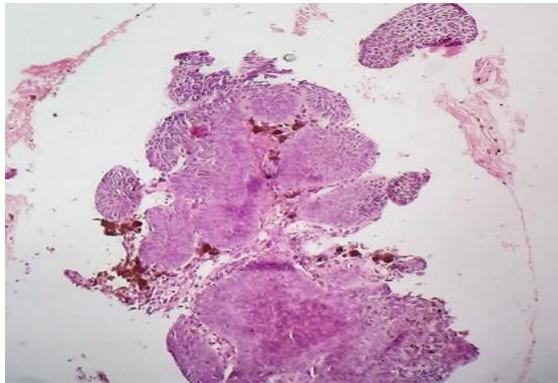


Figure 2: Photomicrograph shows dermal melanin.

CONCLUSION

The most common malignant non-melanoma skin cancer in the world is BCC. Pigmented BCC is a rare variant, but its incidence is increasing in Asian population. The most important preventable predisposing risk factor is UV radiations. Educating the patient about the preventive measures and the various treatment modalities that are available is the need. With increased patient awareness and newer therapeutic options, better outcomes and increased survival of patients are expected.

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