A case of basal cell carcinoma secondary to nevus sebaceous

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nevus sebaceous is a congenital hamartomatous lesion that usually appears on the scalp and neck. With the advance of age, benign and malignant tumor changes on nevus sebaceous lesions may occur, these tumors are usually benign. Malignant transformation is very rare on the sebaceous nevus and the basal cell carcinoma is the most common. Case Report: A 50-year-old female patient was admitted to our clinic with a 5×3 cm sized a verrucous erythematous plaque on the left parietal region of head. Total surgical excision was performed and histopathological examination of the sample revealed a basal cell carcinoma developed on ground of nevus sebaceous. Conclusion: To highlight importance of this rare malign development, a case of basal cell carcinoma on the ground of nevus sebaceous is presented.

Keywords: Nevus sebaceous, Tumor, Basal cell carcinoma

INTRODUCTION

Nevus sebaceous is a benign congenital hamartomatous lesion most commonly shows sebaceous malformation but different proportions of epithelial, follicular and apocrine malformation can be seen [1]. The lesions appear at birth as small swelling almost insensible and they can progressively begin to appear thickened and irregular borders at late childhood and adulthood. It usually appears on hairy skin and face but it also appears on the neck and less frequently on the body. The scalp lesions show alopecic features [2].

Nevus sebaceous presents 0.05–1% of outpatients applying to the dermatology clinic. Nevus sebaceous occurs with equal frequency in males and females. Nevus sebaceous are generally sporadic, lesions are thought to develop as a result of para dominant inheritance in cases of inherited nevus sebaceous [1, 3]. About 14% of nevus sebaceous cases develop to malignancies in late childhood and adulthood period, most of the malignancies are benign [2, 4]. Benign tumors include syringocystadenoma papilliferum (5%), trichoblastoma (4.5%), trichilemmoma (2.5%) and sebaceoma (2.1%). Malign conversions, which are less than 1%, includes basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinomas [4]. Malignant changes occurs in about 10–30% of the patients 40–70 years of age [5, 6]. Several theories have been proposed for the proliferative changes in nevus sebaceous. Deletions in the patched gene has been determined in nevus sebaceous and it has been reported that this deletion causes the development of BCC and other tumoral structures by
activation of patched-hedgehog signaling pathway, although this idea has not been supported by further studies [1].

Herein, a case of BCC on the ground of nevus sebaceous is presented with review of available literature.

CASE REPORT

A 50-year-old female patient was admitted to our clinic with alopecic lesion which present from birth in hairy skin, which was enlarged in the recent year and became a reddish stalked mass. She had no complaint apart from bleeding of the lesion while combing hair.

The patient had no self and family genetic background for cancer and routine laboratory findings were within normal limits (hemogram, biochemistry, whole blood). Dermatological examination revealed a 5×3 cm sized a verrucous erythematous plaque on the left parietal region of head, on which there was 1×1 cm erythema on the right upper corner. She had no similar lesions on other parts of the body. Total surgical excision was performed with preliminary diagnosis of syringocystadenoma papilliferum, trichoblastoma and BCC. We made an incision through the full three layers of the skin around the obvious area of the skin cancer. The specimen was removed and the edges of the wound were pulled together using plastic surgery techniques. Histopathological examination of the sample revealed a BCC (ulceration of epidermal surface, infiltrating basolateral cell islands to dermis, positive staining in basaloid cells with CD10) developed on ground of nevus sebaceous (Figures 1 and 2) and no tumor was detected within the surgical limits. The patient was referred to the plastic surgery department with suggestion of total excision of nevus sebaceous due to potential of new malignity progression. Another medical management was not given. The patient did not receive any radiotherapy.

DISCUSSION

Nevus sebaceous is a congenital hamartomatous malformation, also known as organoid nevus, first described in 1895 by Jadassohn, describes alterations of glands involving epithelial, pilar, sebaceous, eccrine and apocrine structures with various levels of follicular, sebaceous and apocrine differentiation [1, 7].

Nevus sebaceous presents as a solitary lesion, usually present at birth and it may develop in early childhood. Clinically, it appears as mild swelling, shiny velour plaque at birth and infancy. At puberty, by the effects of the androgen hormones the sebaceous glands matures and became functioning resulting in the development of yellow, papillomatous-verrucous lesions [8, 9].

Arising of tumor from nevus sebaceous usually occurs at puberty or later stages. Most common benign tumors are syringocystadenoma papilliferum and trichoepithelioma and trichoblastoma. Less frequently occurring tumors includes leiomyoma, syringoma, spiradenoma, hidradenoma and keratoacanthoma [5, 10, 11].

Malignant transformations on the ground of nevus sebaceous are very rare whereas BCC is the most common among these. Recent studies indicate that the rate of BCC development on the ground of nevus sebaceous is not 10% as suggested by previous studies but, in fact, it is less than 1% [2, 4, 5]. Two retrospective studies involving 596 and 757 patients, those diagnosed as BCC were confused and they actually had trichoblastoma and therefore despite suppositional rate transformation of BCC on the ground of nevus sebaceous is much rarer [5, 10, 12].

Basal Cell carcinoma cases especially the nodular type should be histopathologically differentiated from eccrine spiradenoma, nodular hidradenoma and trichoepithelioma or trichoblastoma like benign adnexal proliferations. Typical nodular BCCs with telangiectasia...
may be present as pearl appearance elevated nodules of ulceration or cysts. Histopathologically, large lobule basaloid cells with peripheral palisading nuclei may appear. The lobules may involve mucinous degenerations [11, 13].

Eccrine spiradenoma is well bordered intradermal nodule with no connection with epidermis. The tumor contains small cells with dark-colored nuclei and larger cells with light color nuclei. Mitosis and dyskeratosis is not common. Nodular hidradenoma has no connection with the epidermis and the rate of mitosis is low. It may differentiate towards the eccrine channel. This tumor may invade deeper than nodular BCC. Necrosis is not common, peripheral cell palisades and mucin deposits do not appear. Differentiating BCC from trichoeipithelioma or trichoblastoma can be difficult. These tumors may contain focal calcifications. Small keratin cysts may be present. But basaloid cell proliferation is not typical and mucin formation is rare. Mitotic activity and apoptosis is decreased. Typically, these tumors presents with mild or moderate fibrosis formation around dermis. Stromal changes are more prominent compared to the normal dermis. The decomposition of stroma may be present. CD34 is positive or stroma of trichoblastoma while being negative for BCC. Focal positive staining of BCC with cytokeratin 7, 8, and even more staining with CD10 is important for differentiation of trichoblastoma or trichoeipithelioma [5, 11, 13]. Additionally, the presence of ulceration in BCC is another important parameter in differentiation from trichoblastoma [5, 13].

Ulceration in surface epidermis and connection between the epidermis basaloid islands were evident in our case. Immunohistochemical examination revealed CD10 and positive staining in the basaloid cells while no positive staining in the stromal cells.

Among to other malignant tumors arising from nevus sebaceus are apocrine carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and malignant eccrine poroma [10]. Patients with nevus sebaceus should closely be clinically followed and any changes suspicious of evoking tumor should be sampled for pathology. At early stage, total surgical excision remains a matter of debate. Some suggests early period prophylactic excision for prevention of malignant development while others find this unnecessary [5, 8].

CONCLUSION

In this article, a case of basal cell carcinoma on the ground of nevus sebaceous is presented with aim of highlighting the significance of this rare entity.

REFERENCES


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