

## NEGLECTED GIANT SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF PALM: AN EXTREMELY INFREQUENT TUMOUR

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**Introduction:** Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the most common, accounting for 58 - 90% of all hand tumours. Approximately 15% of all SCC tumours appear in the hand. Interestingly, the development of SCCs of the palm is extremely rare when their frequency is compared with that of the rest of the hand. This often leads to misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis. Cutaneous SCCs if neglected, they may obtain uncontrollable growth and substantial disfigurement. These cases with giant cutaneous SCCs (maximum diameter >5 cm) can be very difficult to treat and despite aggressive excision can present with recurrence and/or metastases.

**Discussion:** A 54 years old mentally challenged gentleman presented with right palm swelling for 1 year which was progressively increasing in size. There was no history of trauma. Physical examination showed a foul-smelling fungating growth measuring 8x8cm overlying right palm. Plain radiograph of right hand revealed juxtaarticular osteopenia. We proceeded with wedge biopsy which revealed well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. MRI of right hand showed malignant soft tissue mass at palmar surface of right hand with local extension to the subcutaneous and right hand thenar space. We subsequently proceeded with right below elbow amputation. Histopathological assessment confirmed well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of right palm with clear surgical margin. CTTAP showed no distant metastasis. Patient was discharged and so far after one year of follow up there is no recurrence of the disease.

**Conclusion:** Localized squamous cell cancer of the skin can reach enormous size if neglected. The invasiveness of the tumour depends on the size, anatomical location, and histological subtype. Surgery is the mainstay of treatment even in giant tumours followed by chemotherapy for the risk of metastatic spread.