

A Rare Case of Fungating Subungual Malignant Melanoma of Big Toe

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INTRODUCTION:

Subungual melanoma (SM) is a rare type of cutaneous malignant melanoma that develops in the nail bed. In Malaysia, the incidence is low, at 0.3-0.4 per 100,000 (1). Furthermore, SM is even rarer when it occurs in a patient with a known carcinoma. We present a case of SM in a patient with sigmoid carcinoma who had delayed clinical presentation.

REPORT:

A 92-year-old lady, with a history of sigmoid adenocarcinoma, presented with a fungating mass on her left big toe, which rapidly increased in size. Examination revealed a dark-pigmented fungating mass, measuring 5cm x 4cm. The nail was obliterated. There were multiple ipsilateral palpable inguinal lymph nodes. MRI showed a heterogeneous soft tissue mass involving cutaneous and subcutaneous layers with destruction of the distal phalanx. It infiltrates the extensor hallucis longus tendon. Wedge biopsy confirmed malignant melanoma. She underwent rays amputation of the left big and 2nd toes with left inguinal lymph nodes excision (Fig.1). Intraoperatively, pigmented lesions were observed tracking proximally along the lymph node distribution (Fig.2). Local radiotherapy and systemic chemotherapy were planned, however, she defaulted. Six months later, she returned with multiple pigmented cutaneous lesions over the left leg and inguinal area. Unfortunately, she declined further treatment.



Fig.1:(A)On presentation. (B)Resected Specimen



Fig.2:(C),(D)Proximal cutaneous metastasis

CONCLUSION:

Subungual melanoma presenting with a fungating mass suggests a highly aggressive pattern of disease at an advanced stage. It can mimic squamous cell carcinoma, or infection (2). The presence of advanced primary malignancy significantly increases the risk of developing secondary malignancies. This case highlights the natural history of SM and emphasizes the importance of promoting awareness among both populations and clinicians for early diagnosis and treatment.

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