

Case Report

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Multifocal Pedal Melanoma in a Nigerian

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Abstract

The norm is for melanoma of the foot to originate in one focus and then to spread to near or far sites. Therefore, this report centers on the multifocal origin of melanoma in a Nigerian of the Igbo ethnic group. In a Japanese, although multifocal, the status was still that of melanoma *in situ*.

Keywords: Melanoma; Origin; Foot; Several sites; Igbo

Introduction

The precision of the site of origin of the melanoma is deemed to be so important that levels are even named eponymously, e.g., Clark's level [1]. Accordingly, it is deemed to be educative to add to the world literature the report on a man of the Igbo Ethnic Group [2]. In him, the multifocality of origin was striking.

Case Report

NO, a 65-year-old man of the Igbo Ethnic Group, attended the Orthopaedic Hospital at Enugu in South Eastern Nigeria, under the care of Dr I. S. Ogbonnaya. There was a pigmented, elevated mass 6 cm x 5 cm x 1.5 cm straddling the sole and dorsum, as well as the lateral aspect of the left foot. The duration of the illness was 4 years. The operation specimen was a conical horny skin with protuberant growths. On section, there were blackish streaks among the growths. The excision edges were up to 1 cm thick in terms of the subcutaneous fat. On microscopy, there were, deep to atrophic skin, blackish streaks among whitish growths. These were indicative of primary growths and not of metastatic melanoma.

Discussion

Although the size was not mentioned in the local report on 124 pedal primaries [3], late reports for hospital biopsies were associated with surprisingly large growths. As was documented in an earlier publication [4], "Ulcerated lesions were present in every case, such lesions being far advanced by the time that the patients sought treatment." Plantar malignant melanoma, as was communicated by The Scottish Melanoma Group [5], was often that of the "superficial spreading melanomas." In South Africa [6], patients were found to "present with large deeply invasive lesions, particularly on the foot." Likewise, regarding Afro-American

patients [7], the report was the same, namely, "an aggressive disease highly associated with invasive lesions."

Curiously, a primary malignant melanoma of the torso was illustrated with reference to skeletal metastasis to the foot [8]. In the present series, there was no such extrapedal primary metastasizing to the foot. In conclusion, the multifocal nature of this case of melanoma was apparent by its appearances in different parts of the foot. Therefore, it is interesting that, this phenomenon was described in Japan [9], as "a case of multifocal melanoma *in situ* on the foot." In other words, the Japanese case was not even the full blown melanoma!

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