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Metastatic neuroendocrine carcinoma in the skin

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Neuroendocrine tumors arise from neuroendocrine cells, and are relatively uncommon. These tumors are grouped into a relatively broad class of malignancies due to their inherent ability to synthesize and secrete peptide hormones. Cutaneous metastases secondary to neuroendocrine tumors are rare. Herein we report a case of a 75-year-old woman who presents with a rare cutaneous metastatic disease. She presented to our clinic with a 1-year history of an enlarging asymptomatic lesion on her left anterior shoulder. Four years previously she had been diagnosed with metastatic low-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma of unknown primary, with metastases to liver, lung and bone. The patient had no personal history of skin cancer. Physical examination revealed an 8-mm, well-demarcated, dome shaped, erythematous nodule with a smooth surface and speckled black pigmentation at its center. (Fig. 1) Histology demonstrated multiple nodular dermal aggregates of cells with atypical small round nuclei and scant cytoplasm. (Fig. 2) Immunohistochemical studies showed that the tumor cells stained strongly positive for chromogranin A and synaptophysin, but stained negative for cytokeratin 20. The patient started palliative chemo-radiation therapy and passed away soon after.

Biography

Sirunya Silapunt is a specialist in varicose vein treatment, surgical dermatology, laser procedures, facial rejuvenation, injectables and cosmetic dermatology. She completed her residency training at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, Texas, and then pursued a fellowship in phlebology (vein treatment), laser, and dermatologic procedures in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Silapunt is board certified in Dermatology (ABD), and she is certified by the American Board of Venous and Lymphatic Medicine (ABVLM). She is a certified Phlebology Sonographer (RPhS, ultrasound testing for leg veins) and an invited speaker on varicose veins at national meetings. Dr. Silapunt is editor of the textbook "Treatment of Leg Veins, 2nd edition" as well as an author of the chapter called "Sclerotherapy and Laser Vein Treatment" in the textbook "The Art of Aesthetic Surgery: Principles and Techniques". She is also an author of the chapter called "Repair of the Split Earlobe, Ear Piercing, and Earlobe Reduction" in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions of the textbook "Surgery of the Skin".

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