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Tzanck test in diagnosis of skin tumors

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Tzanck Test is an effective method to complete a definitive diagnosis in Dermatology. It can be used to inflammatory disease, metabolic and cutaneous tumors. It is a very cheap exam and useful to many dermatological disease. It is not limited to Herpes virus infections. Cytology in general was discovered by Erlich in 1870 and in 1928 Papanicolaou found its application in diagnosis of uterine cancer. In Dermatology the pioneer author was Tzanck in France in 1948. In Brazil Dr. Estevam Almeida Neto completed his doutorate in Dermatology in 1960 with a thesis about Cytology of Leprosy. I was his disciple in 1984 when I was a resident in Dermatology at University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. For many years I have work hard using this wonderful practical test to help in diagnosis of many tumoral, inflammatory and metabolic cutaneous diseases. We can do a rapid diagnosis of a skin tumor and begin the treatment immediately. I have used two type of smear stain (Giemsa and Papanicolaou). We can differentiate between Pigmented Basal Cell Carcinoma to Melanoma or Pigmented Bowen Disease using Tzanck Test. It is not overcome skin biopsy but has a complementary effect. I was useful in Dermatologic Surgery when we can examine a deeper margin of a surgical ulcer before stop the surgery and seek atypical cells in that place. I would like to show at the Congress how to do this practical method and some case can be showed to demonstration usefulness of this test.

Biography

Thomas Paulo MD, has completed his graduate course in Medicine at the age of 25 years from Federal University of State of Rio Grande do Norte and completed (one year) Residency in Internal Medicine in Rio de Janeiro and Dermatology at University of Sao Paulo - Brazil (USP) for two years (1984 and 1985). He concluded his Board in Dermatology in 1986 by Brazilian Society of Dermatology. He is Assistant Professor of Dermatology since 1994 at Department of Dermatology of the Rio Grande do Norte University in Northeast of Brazil. He has a Board in Hansen Disease at Brazilian Association of Leprosy. He is a teacher in Dermatopathology to Residents Doctors at Department of Dermatology. He has made a short Atlas of Cutaneous Cytology in 2009 with support from Galderma Laboratories and had published some articles about Cutaneous Cytology and Skin Cancer on Dermatology Online Journal in March 2007 about Diffuse Melanosis in Malignant Melanoma. He has written half of chapters at two more famous books of Dermatology in Brazil in sections about Diagnosis Tests in General Dermatology.

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