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Primary cutaneous malignant melanoma: Not a rarity in Asian skin

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Statement of the Problem: Cutaneous malignant melanoma (MM) is uncommon in the dark pigmented Indian skin compared to the white skin. It is associated with highest morbidity and mortality if diagnosed late. A wide spectrum of histopathological variants has been described though cutaneous MM from India is limited to few case reports only.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: It was a retrospective study over a period of 12 years from January 2003 to December 2015. The demographic and disease characteristics including age, gender, clinical morphology and site of involvement were recorded from the request forms. The histopathological subtype of MM was studied by 2 observers with clinical features.

Findings: During the 12-year period, 60 cases of MM were histologically diagnosed of which 16 (25.8%) were primary cutaneous type. The mean age of cutaneous MM patients was 57.71 years (range 3 months to 95 years) having male to female ratio of 3.3:1. Of 16 patients, 6 (30.8%) had lesions on the heel of the foot, 3 (23.1%) on the great toe, 2 (15.4%) on the dorsum of the foot and 1 (7.7%) each on the face, thumb, lower back, thigh and leg. Clinically, the tumor presented as ulceration in 8 (61.5%) patients, nodule in 4 (30.8%) and ulcero-proliferative growth in 1 (7.7%) and indurated pigmented lesion in one patient. Histopathologically, tumors were classified as not otherwise specified (NOS) in 4 (30.8%) cases, nodular, nevoid, spindle-cell in 2 (15.4%) patients each, small-cell and anaplastic in 1 (7.7%) patient each. Superficial spreading type was diagnosed in two patients. Resection margins were free in 9 (69.2%) and involved in 4 (30.8%) patients.

Conclusion & Significance: Cutaneous MM is uncommon in Asian skin. Acral lentiginous is the most common subtype in dark skin individuals. Besides classic histological variants, rare subtypes should be recognized for early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

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Diagnosis and mycological profile of onychomycosis

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Onychomycosis is a major public health problem with a high incidence. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of various causative agents of onychomycosis and to study the clinical and mycological patterns of onychomycosis. A prospective study was conducted from September 2015 to March 2016 in university hospital center of Tlemcen in Algeria. The nails were evaluated clinically and the nail samples were subjected to direct microscopy and culture. 73% samples were found to be positive by direct microscopy and culture. Toe nails were affected more frequently than finger nails and distolateral subungual onychomycosis was the most common clinical type of infection which was seen in 74.73% patients. The etiological agents were yeasts (63.33%) and dermatophytes (36.67%). Among dermatophytes, *T. rubrum* was the commonest etiological agent. In our study, the mycological examination is the key for the positive diagnostic of onychomycosis; although yeasts were the main causative agents.

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