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Aggressive Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas following treatment for Graft-versus-Host Disease: A Case Report and Review of Risk Factors

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A 19-year-old female with a history of pre-B cell acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) presented with two aggressive cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas (C-SCC) in the right hand. The patient was diagnosed with pre-B cell ALL at four years of age. She underwent chemotherapy with initial remission. However, recurrence of the pre-B cell ALL required an unrelated allogeneic cord hematopoietic stem cell transplant (alloHSCT). Post-transplant, the patient developed Graft-Versus-Host Disease (GVHD), which was treated with immunosuppressant therapy for six years until resolution. Fourteen years following the transplant, the patient developed a new ulcerated and tender nodule on the dorsal aspect of her right hand. Further histopathological biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of C-SCC, which required excision. Ten months following the excision, the patient developed an additional C-SCC nodule on the same right hand, separated by 2.6 cm from the prior C-SCC. She was referred for a ray resection procedure. This case illustrates a patient with multiple risk factors that may have contributed to the continued development of C-SCC. Such risk factors include: a prolonged course of immunosuppressant medications and voriconazole treatment. Additional research is needed to investigate the etiologies and risks of C-SCC development in patients who require a transplant and long-duration immunosuppressive therapy.

Biography

Gehan "Gigi" Pendlebury is an aspiring military dermatologist, commissioned Navy ensign (ENS), and student doctor at Nova Southeastern University, College of Osteopathic Medicine. ENS Pendlebury serves in the United States Navy Medical Corps Reserves. She follows her calling to serve current and past military service members with the utmost quality of care using an integrative, whole-person approach. Her more current research has focused on dermatopathology, operational skin disease, interventional pain management, traumatic brain injury, chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder among combat veterans and military service members. She has presented research in other areas of dermatology including a novel, comprehensive dermatological review on COVID-19-related cutaneous manifestations. Further research interests include occupational skin disease, operational dermatology and integrative dermatology.