Squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva diagnosed by a dermatologist\textsuperscript{a, b, c}

Dear Editor,

Vulvar cancer is considered a rare disease, accounting for approximately 4% of all female genital neoplasms, and squamous cell carcinoma is the most prevalent, accounting for 90% of malignant tumors in this region, followed by melanoma. Its incidence is higher in the elderly population, with a worldwide incidence of approximately 1.8/100,000 women, increasing to 20/100,000 after the age of 75 years.\textsuperscript{1, 2}

A female patient, 82 years old, from Bauru-SP, was referred to the dermatology department with complaint of pruritus and a lesion in the genital region two months previously. Hypertension, hypothyroidism, and diabetes were reported as comorbidities. Widowed 14 years ago, she denied sexual activity ever since.

On examination of the genital region, erythema and edema of the entire labia majora were found, and an ulcerative nodule approximately 1.7 cm in diameter was found in the region of the labia minora (Fig. 1).

An incisional biopsy was performed, showing a well-differentiated, invasive, ulcerated squamous cell carcinoma (Fig. 2). HPV screening for genome amplification was negative (Table 1). The patient was referred to the oncology department for treatment at a referral hospital.

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Study conducted at the Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima, Bauru, SP, Brazil.
Figure 1 Ulcerated nodular tumor infiltrating the labia minora.

Figure 2 Blocks of atypical epithelial cells with corneal pearl formation (Hematoxylin & eosin, ×200).

Table 1 HPV screening by genome amplification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target sequences tested</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPV SOE (184 pb)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV 6 (118 pb)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV 11 (120 pb)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV 16 (137 pb)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV 18 (121 pb)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authors’ contribution

Isadora Barreto Michels: Conception and planning of the study; composition of the manuscript; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; critical review of the literature.

Cláudio Sampieri Tonello: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; participation in the design of the study; intellectual participation in the propaedeutic and/or therapeutic conduct of the studied cases; critical review of the manuscript.

Cleverson Teixeira Soares: Approval of the final version of the manuscript; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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References


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