

PSEUDOEPITHELIOMATOUS HYPERPLASIA DISGUISED IN THE GARMENTS OF SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

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Introduction: Pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia (PEH) is a benign proliferation of the epidermis which may extend down into the dermis in irregular squamous strands. It commonly mimics malignant lesions such as squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Rarely, PEH presents with regional lymphadenopathy and distant lesions mimicking metastasis.

Case Presentation: A 56-year-old-lady presented with 2 months of poor healing ulcer over left shin after minor trauma. Examination revealed a 5x 4cm ulcer with raised edges and crusting over left shin with multiple fungating lesions over her labia minora and multiple enlarged lymph nodes over bilateral inguinal region. Left shin ulcer biopsy revealed SCC and biopsy of the labial lesions suggestive of reactive inflammatory changes. Contrast CT imaging showed multiple lobulated fungating lesions at the labia minora, with multiple nodal metastasis. A wide local excision of the left shin hypopigmented healed lesion with a split thickness skin graft was performed. Based on the second pathological findings, the first report of SCC was redacted and the diagnosis of PEH. Her wounds healed completely with dressing.

Discussion. SCC with regional lymphadenopathy and labial metastasis indicates an advanced stage that should be managed aggressively with aggressive resection and inguinal dissection. Clinical judgement should prevail despite pathological and radiological diagnosis. In this case, the spontaneous healing of the lesion raised a red flag that resulted in a less aggressive surgical approach. A high degree of suspicion and repeated biopsies can be indicated in certain cases.

Conclusion: PEH can present with regional lymphadenopathy and mimic advanced SCC. Clinicians should be aware of such rare presentations which can prevent undue aggressive surgeries with high morbidities.

