

Dermatoscopy: A nodule on a woman's leg

Ramon Pigem¹, Susana Puig¹, Lidia Maroñas-Jiménez², Josep Malvehy¹

¹ Melanoma Unit, Department of Dermatology, Hospital Clinic, IDIBAPS, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

² Department of Dermatology, Hospital Doce de Octubre, Madrid, Spain

Citation: Pigem R, Puig S, Maroñas-Jiménez L, Malvehy J. Dermatoscopy: A nodule on a woman's leg. *Dermatol Pract Concept* 2015;5(3):6. doi: 10.5826/dpc.0503a06

Copyright: ©2015 Pigem et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Corresponding author: Ramon Pigem, MD, Melanoma Unit, Department of Dermatology, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, C/Villarroel 170, 08036 Barcelona, Spain. Tel. +34 932279867; Fax: +34 932275438. E-mail: rpigem@clinic.ub.es

Clinical presentation

A 61-year-old white female presented with a 7 x 4 mm nodule that was firm to palpation on her right leg (Figure 1) of 5

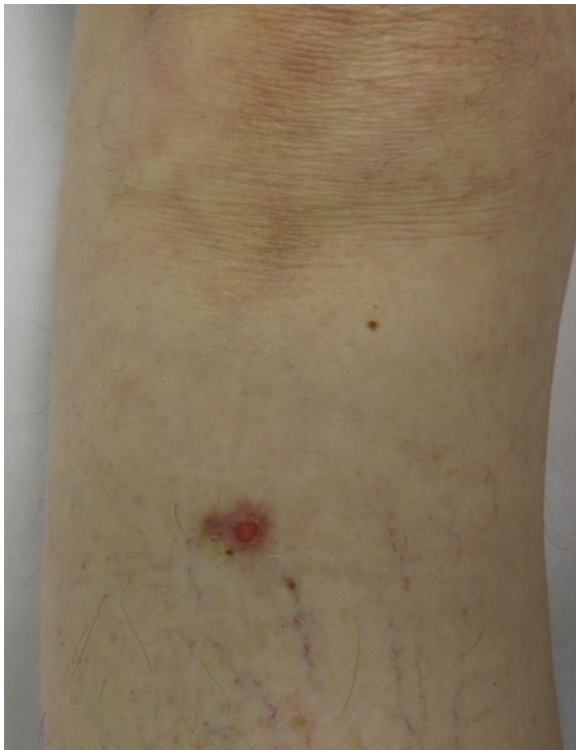


Figure 1. The lesion is located on the right leg, just below the right knee. It is an asymmetrical erythematous plaque with ill-defined borders. The pigmented area is attached to a palpable and ulcerated nodule. [Copyright: ©2015 Pigem et al.]

months' duration. The lesion was not painful, but bleeding with minimal trauma.

Dermoscopic appearance

The main findings were milky red-white areas, ulceration and atypical vessels on the palpable component and two pigmented areas at the periphery that were asymmetrically distributed (Figure 2).

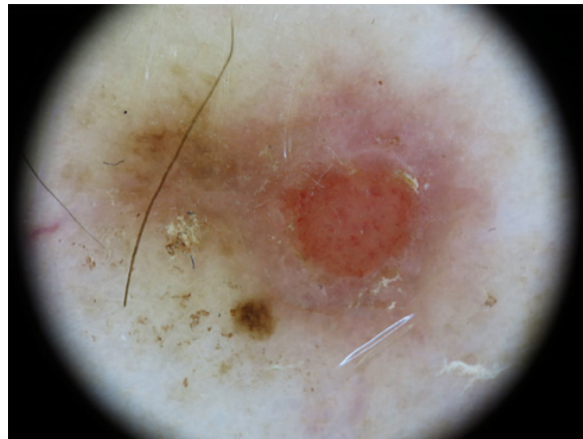


Figure 2. Asymmetry in its structures with a palpable area (right side of the picture) that presents atypical vessels and ulceration is seen. On the other side (left), adjacent to the nodule, a delicate pigmented area may be observed. [Copyright: ©2015 Pigem et al.]

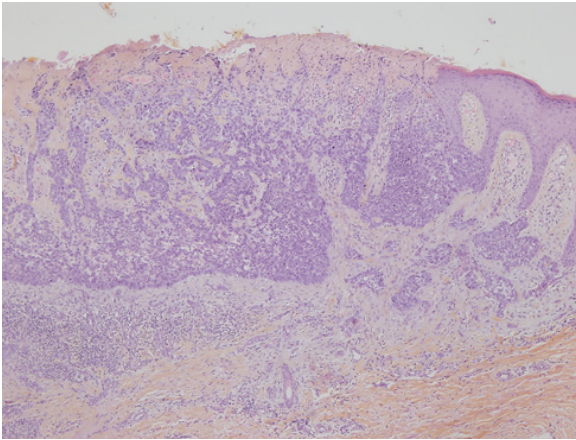


Figure 3. Compound tumor. The histopathologic analysis revealed an infiltrating basal cell carcinoma. Erosion is observed on the tumor surface (epidermis) and a tumoration of small basophilic cells forming micronodules and infiltrating cords with peripheral palisading surrounded by stroma is observed. There is also an inflammatory infiltrate (hematoxylin and eosin stain 10x). [Copyright: ©2015 Pigem et al.]

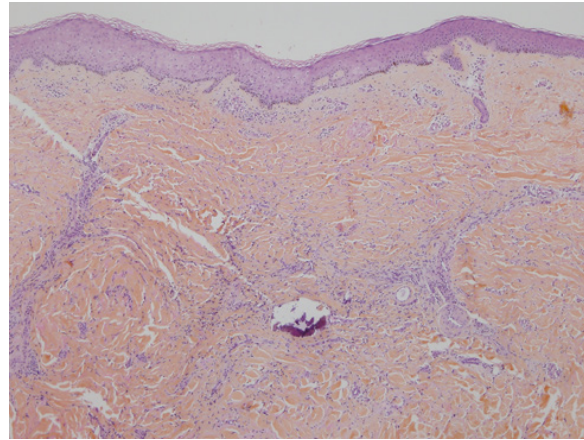


Figure 4. Compound tumor. The other tumoral component of this lesion was a dermatofibroma. A not very well defined dermal tumouration of fusocellular cells with epidermal hyperplasia and hyperpigmentation of the basal layer are seen (hematoxylin and eosin stain 10x). [Copyright: ©2015 Pigem et al.]

What is your diagnosis?

Diagnosis

The lesion was totally excised to rule out malignancy with a final diagnosis of a compound tumor. The nodule with erosion and atypical vessels corresponded to an infiltrating basal cell carcinoma (Figure 3), whereas the firm area with pigmentation to a dermatofibroma (Figure 4).

Discussion

A compound (collision) tumor is the result of two different neoplasms occurring in the same lesion. Correct diagnosis is important in order to offer proper treatment when benign and malignant lesions coexist. In the literature several compound tumors and their dermoscopic features, including the association between dermatofibroma and basal cell carcinoma,

have been already reported [1]. Even though dermoscopy may be useful in the recognition of compound tumors, some cases may be more difficult to recognize. In the present case the main differential diagnosis was melanoma. Amelanotic/hypomelanotic melanoma is characterized clinically by the presence of asymmetry and ulceration, whereas irregular pigmentation and certain vascular patterns (milky-red areas and dotted and linear irregular vessels) are commonly seen in the dermoscopy of these tumors, similar to the present case [2].

References

1. Zaballos P, Llambrich A, Puig S, et al. Dermoscopy is useful for the recognition of benign-malignant compound tumours. *Br J Dermatol* 2005;153:653-6.
2. Zalaudek I, Kreusch J, Giacomoni J, et al. How to diagnose non-pigmented skin tumors: a review of vascular structures seen with dermoscopy: part I. Melanocytic skin tumors. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2010;63:361-74.