



NIPPLE MELANOMA IN A MALE PATIENT

A RARE CASE WITH VISIBLE MACROSCOPIC PIGMENT SPREAD TO LYMPH NODES

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ABSTRACT

Malignant melanoma of the nipple represents an extremely rare localization, particularly in male patients. This site is not commonly included in the differential diagnosis of cutaneous lesions of the breast region

Our aim is to present a rare case of nipple melanoma in a male patient, with macroscopically visible pigmentation in the lymph nodes, and to highlight the surgical and histopathological findings.

A 76-year-old male presented with an ulcerated lesion of the right nipple. He underwent right mastectomy with concurrent sentinel lymph node biopsy. Macroscopically, the regional lymph nodes displayed a blackish pigmentation, indicative of melanin dispersion. Imaging evaluation did not reveal any evident secondary lesions.

Histopathological examination revealed nodular melanoma of the nipple skin, Breslow thickness 12 mm, Clark level IV, ulcerated. No residual disease was identified (R0). The sentinel lymph node biopsy was positive for metastatic melanoma. TNM stage: pT4b, N3a, R0. The patient was scheduled for first-line immunotherapy.

This case underscores the need for increased clinical suspicion when evaluating atypical cutaneous lesions of the male breast. Although rare, nipple melanoma should be considered in the differential diagnosis. The macroscopic black discoloration of lymph nodes is an impressive finding that may suggest nodal involvement.

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INTRODUCTION

Malignant melanoma of the nipple represents an extremely rare localization, particularly in male patients. This site is not commonly included in the differential diagnosis of cutaneous lesions of the breast region.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

A 76-year-old male presented with an ulcerated lesion of the right nipple. He underwent right mastectomy with concurrent sentinel lymph node biopsy. Macroscopically, the regional lymph nodes displayed a blackish pigmentation, indicative of melanin dispersion. Imaging evaluation did not reveal any evident secondary lesions.

AIM

To present a rare case of nipple melanoma in a male patient, with macroscopically visible pigmentation in the lymph nodes, and to highlight the surgical and histopathological findings.

RESULTS

Histopathological examination revealed nodular melanoma of the nipple skin, Breslow thickness 12 mm, Clark level IV, ulcerated. No residual disease was identified (R0). The sentinel lymph node biopsy was positive for metastatic melanoma. TNM stage: pT4b, N3a, R0. The patient was scheduled for first-line immunotherapy.

DISCUSSION

Primary malignant melanoma of the nipple is exceptionally rare, especially in men, and is often misdiagnosed as benign or inflammatory lesions. This case is distinctive due to the macroscopic black pigmentation of the lymph nodes, a finding seldom described in the literature, suggesting extensive melanin dissemination. Nipple melanomas are commonly nodular, present with ulceration and high Breslow thickness, and are frequently diagnosed at an advanced stage. Awareness and early biopsy of atypical nipple lesions are essential to achieve timely diagnosis and improve outcomes.

CONCLUSIONS

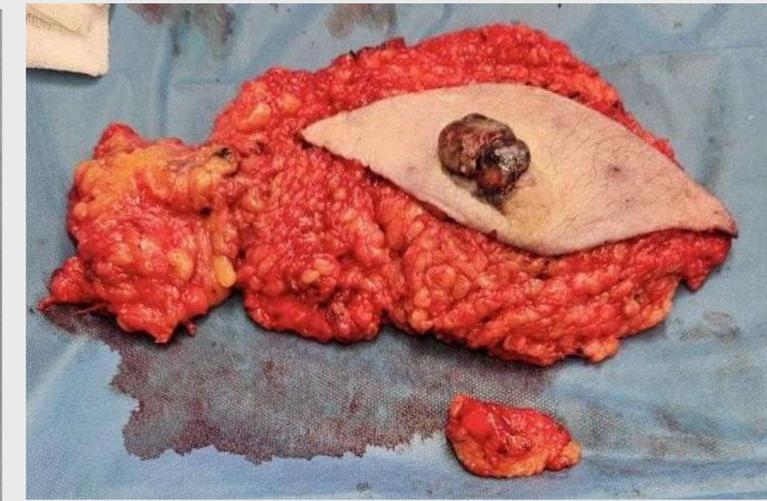
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Figures 1,2:Ulcerated pigmented lesion of the right nipple before surgery.



Figures 3,4 . Excised specimen showing nodular ulcerated melanoma of the nipple.