Eccrine poroma: the great dermoscopic imitator

Editor
Eccrine poroma (EP) is a benign adnexal neoplasm, which might develop as a pinkish, red or pigmented papule, plaque or nodule. As a result of its morphologic variability, EP is usually difficult to recognize. More than one dermoscopic patterns have been described to characterize EP.

We herein report on the dermoscopic variability in EP, presenting eight characteristic cases, each one dermoscopically exhibiting a different pattern, strikingly resembling a common skin tumour. All tumours were excised because a definite diagnosis was not feasible after clinical and dermoscopic examination, and histopathologically diagnosed as EP.

Angioma-like: A 73-year-old man presented with a gradually enlarging nodule on his back (Fig. 1a). The differential diagnosis included angioma, pyogenic granuloma, basal cell carcinoma and amelanotic melanoma.

Seborrhic keratosis-like: The clinico-dermoscopic evaluation of a keratotic papule on the lower limb of a 83-year-old woman did not allow a definite diagnosis of seborrheic keratosis (Fig. 1b).

Dermatofibroma-like: Although dermoscopy a white-brownish plaque on the back of a 85-year-old man was highly suggestive of dermatofibroma (Fig. 1c), the lesion lacked the pathognomonic ‘dimple sign’, prompting us to excise it.

Figure 1  (a) A poroma (upper) dermoscopically displaying lacunas-like structures, but also some linear irregular vessels and an angioma (lower) with the typical pattern of red globules (lacunas). (b) A poroma (upper) exhibiting ulceration, perivascular white halos, as well as comedo-like structures and a seborrhic keratosis (lower) with multiple comedo-like openings and perivascular white halos. (c) A poroma (upper) and a dermatofibroma (lower) with a strikingly similar dermoscopic pattern, consisting of a central white structureless area and a peripheral delicate pigment network. (d) A poroma (upper) dermoscopically showing linear irregular, comma, hairpin and a few dotted vessels and a dermal nevus (lower) with comma, linear irregular and some dotted vessels as well.
Dermal nevus-like: A 42-year-old man sought consultation for evaluation of a 3-years standing lesion on his chest (Fig. 1d). Although a dermal nevus was included in the clinical and dermoscopic differential diagnosis, the lesion was excised to rule out BCC and melanoma.

Bowen’s disease-like: A 71-year-old man presented with a recently appeared lesion on his chest. Dermoscopic examination was suggestive of Bowen’s disease (Fig. 2a).

Squamous cell carcinoma-like: A 70-year-old man presented for assessment of a recently appeared lesion on the plantal surface of his foot (Fig. 2b). In this case, the diagnosis of EP was suspected, mainly because of the lesion’s location.

Pigmented basal cell carcinoma-like: During the regular follow-up visit of a 72-year-old woman with a history of melanoma, a pigmented nodule was found on her abdomen (Fig. 2c). The nodule was urgently excised with the differential diagnosis ranging among pigmented BCC, a second primary melanoma and melanoma metastasis.

Melanoma in situ-like: A 49-year-old man visited our department for a total-body mole check. On clinical examination, a flat pigmented lesion was found on his shoulder, among numerous solar lentigines (Fig. 2d). The lesion was excised under the suspicion of melanoma in situ.

As highlighted by the cases presented herein, EP might perfectly mimic most of the common benign and malignant tumours and, therefore, merits to be characterized as a great dermoscopic imitator.

The substantial discrepancy among studies reporting on the dermoscopic findings of EP lead to the conclusion that EP is characterized by a high dermoscopic variability.2-10 Cases of EP displaying arborizing vessels and blue-grey ovoid nests and, thus, closely resembling BCC, have been reported.6 However, larger series demonstrated that EP more frequently displays irregular vessels, rendering its discrimination from amelanotic melanoma very difficult.2-5 Furthermore, perivascular whitish halos, which represent a sign of keratinization, have also been observed in several EP, as well as vascular structures resembling the characteristic lacunas of angioma.2-5 A peculiar flower-like vascular structure was introduced by Aydingoz, and was later found in 42% of EP in the larger series published.2,9

Our cases further support the high dermoscopic variability in EP and highlight that the similarity between EP and other common tumours might be too striking to allow a diagnosis without histopathologic examination.

In conclusion, EP can be considered a great dermoscopic imitator, having the potential to perfectly mimic most of the com-
mon bening and malignant tumours, and its definite diagnosis is feasible only histopathologically.

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Involvement of dermal microvascular basement membrane in senile purpura: quantitative immunohistochemical study

Editor

Senile purpura (SP),1 characterized by purpuric macules and patches on photoaged skin of the extremities, belongs to the earliest stage of dermatoporosis, a progressive condition of the elderly resulting in skin fragility2 and subsequent bleeding, ulceration, delayed wound healing and deep dissecting hematomas that may require hospitalization and surgical treatment.3 The haemorrhage observed in SP has been related to impaired mechanical protection by the dermal extracellular matrix, leading to vessel

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Figure 1 Rarefaction of dermal microvasculature in SP. (a) Representative immunofluorescence staining for the endothelial adhesion molecule CD31 demonstrating significantly reduced number of dermal vessels per mm² in both purpuric lesions and nonpurpuric, photoaged skin of patients with SP, as compared with clinically normal external forearm skin of young subjects. Scale bar, 400 μm. (b) Computer-assisted morphometric analysis of CD31-stained sections showing significantly decreased dermal microvasculature density in both SP and photoaged skin compared with normal skin of young subjects (control). Vessel density was slightly although not significantly increased in SP compared with photoaged skin.
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