

A large bleeding mass on the scalp of an elderly male: A quick excision of a delayed case

Habibullah Aktaş¹, Cevat Akıncı², Hikmet Demirkol¹, Merve Basar², and Harun Erol¹

¹Karabuk University

²Karabuk University Faculty of Medicine

April 05, 2024

Abstract

Sebaceous nevus is a congenital hemartoma. It is a known condition that benign or malignant skin tumors can develop on the sebaceous nevus especially after puberty.. In this article, we present a 61-year-old male patient with sebaceous nevus in which an ulcerated basal cell carcinoma developed on a 61 years duration of sebaceous nevus.

A large bleeding mass on the scalp of an elderly male: A quick excision of a delayed case

Dear editor

Nevus sebaceous is a congenital hemartoma that usually presents in infancy or childhood . Despite low incidence , secondary neoplasms can develop in cases with sebaceous nevus. Malignant transformation is seen generally in adulthood (1).

A 61-year-old male patient was admitted to the neurosurgery clinic with a growing bleeding scalp mass. The patient stated that a small mole has existed since birth. But it has started to grow and become ulcerated for last 8 months.

Dermatology consultation was requested. A dark red lobulated mass with a size of 2 cm with ulcers and crusting on it was detected in the skin examination (Figure). The patient was diagnosed with nonmelanoma skin cancer developed on the sebaceous nevus based on the clinical appearance and history. The lesion was quickly excised totally by neurosurgery section due to unstopped bleeding . Pathological evaluation was reported as basal cell carcinoma over a sebaceous in sebaceous nevus.

Sebaceous nevus is a benign congenital lesion with rare neoplastic transformation. Many different benign and malignant tumors of epidermal, adnexal and mesenchymal origin can arise in the sebaceous nevus. Syringocystadenoma papilliferum, apocrine cystadenoma, trichoblastoma, trichilemmal cysts are the most common benign tumors while basalioma as the most common malignant tumor arising on sebaceous nevi (2).

Rapid growth or the development of ulceration should be considered as alarming signs for malignant transformation. Our case noticed a rapid growth with ulcers in a 8-month duration. Basalioma was the malignant tumor developed in this case. No other benign or malignant condition was detected in our patient's nevus. However, occasionally several malignant or benign tumors have been recorded at the same sebaceous nevus (3).

When excision should be done is also a matter of debate, with some advocating early excision, others suggesting only monitorization. In large studies, a small basalioma development rate of 0.9-1.1% has been shown almost all in adulthood..(1,4).

Most sebaceous nevi are localized in scalp like our case. Malignant transformation almost exclusively occurs in adult ages. As the age increases, the malignancy risk also increases. However, younger patients have been reported in which basalioma development occurred as early as 14 years of age. (5).

In conclusion, individuals with sebaceous nevus should be informed, and monitored regularly about malignancy risk of their lesion. Sebaceous nevi should be removed when conditions are favorable for both patients and physicians.

REFERENCES

1. Idriss MH, Elston DM. Secondary neoplasms associated with nevus sebaceus of Jadassohn: a study of 707 cases. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2014 Feb;70(2):332-7
2. Wang Y, Bu WB, Chen H, Zhang ML, Zeng XS, Zhao L, Fang F. Basal cell carcinoma, syringocystadenoma papilliferum, trichilemmoma, and sebaceoma arising within a nevus sebaceus associated with pigmented nevi. *Dermatol Surg*. 2011 Dec;37(12):1806-10
3. Namiki T, Miura K, Ueno M, Arima Y, Nishizawa A, Yokozeki H. Four Different Tumors Arising in a Nevus Sebaceous. *Case Rep Dermatol*. 2016 Apr 20;8(1):75-9
4. Hsu MC, Liao JY, Hong JL, Cheng Y, Liao YH, Chen JS, Sheen YS, Hong JB. Secondary neoplasms arising from nevus sebaceus: A retrospective study of 450 cases in Taiwan. *J Dermatol*. 2016 Feb;43(2):175-80
5. Jiao L, Han X, Xu J, Sun J, Ma L. Four pediatric cases of secondary neoplasms arising in nevus sebaceous. *Dermatol Ther*. 2020 Nov;33(6):e13762

Figure : Large ulcerated mass on the scalp

