

IMAGE IN DERMATOLOGY

[Translated article] Diagnosing Nipple Adenoma: The Utility of Dermoscopy

Adenoma del pezón: utilidad de la dermatoscopia en su diagnóstico

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Case presentation

A 60-year-old woman was referred to dermatology with a 2-month history lesion on her left nipple. Clinically, she presented with a well-demarcated 10mm nodular tumor.

Dermoscopy revealed regular vascular structures in the upper area (black arrow) and a yellowish-orange cotton-like region in the lower area (red arrow), all against an erythematous-violaceous background (asterisk) (Fig. 1). Histology revealed a dermal tumor nodule with ductal

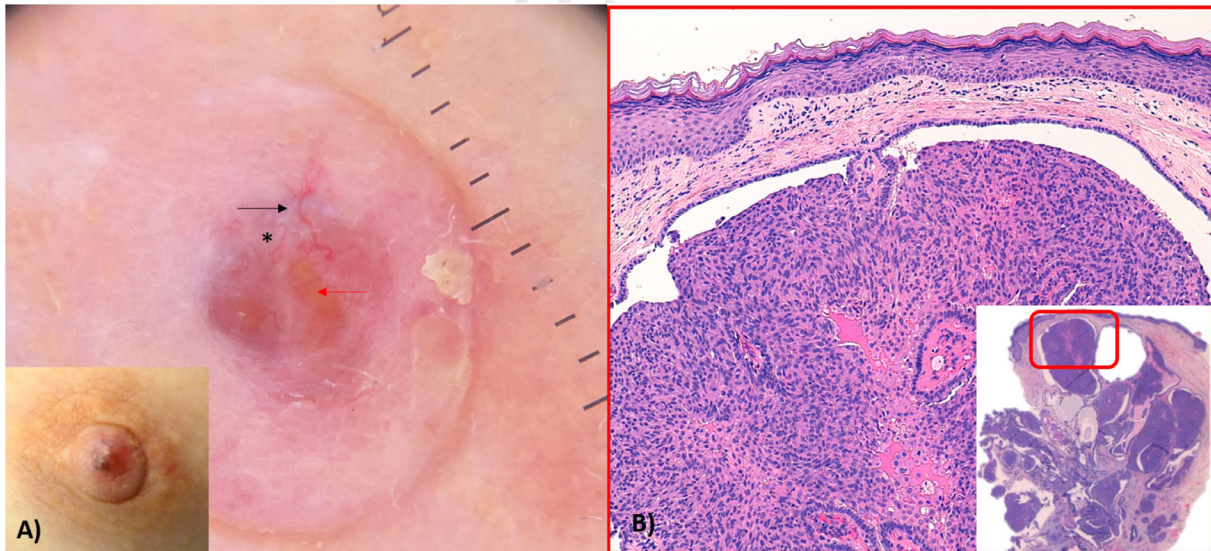


Figure 1

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16 structures over the superficial ducts of the nipple. With
17 these characteristics, the diagnosis was nipple adenoma, a
18 benign tumor originating from the lactiferous ducts. Rec-
19 ognizing this condition clinically helps in the differential
20 diagnosis with malignant processes like Paget's disease (PD)
21 or basal cell carcinoma (BCC), where dermoscopy serves as a
22 diagnostic aid. Described dermoscopic features include red
23 dots arranged linearly or semicircularly (corresponding to
24 tubular structures), erythematous-violaceous areas under-
lying zones of epidermal erosion, regular and linear vascular

structures (reflecting tumor vascularization), and yellowish
25 areas related to hyperkeratotic regions. PD is characterized
26 by diffuse grayish-blue pigmentation and irregular polymor-
27 phic vessels. The vascular structures can be confused with
28 BCC; however, BCC typically has a pearly appearance and
29 is often accompanied by other signs absent in nipple ade-
30 noma. In conclusion, dermoscopy can aid in a more precise
31 diagnosis, though histological confirmation is still necessary
32 (Fig. 1).
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