

The Many Faces of Seborrheic Keratosis[☆]



Las posibles mil caras de las queratosis seborreicas

Seborrheic keratosis (SK) is a frequent motive for consultation and is usually resolved with a simple clinical diagnosis; in private practice, it is often associated with esthetic treatment. Inflammation or pigmentation may require clinical differential diagnosis with squamous cell carcinoma or melanoma, respectively. Dermatoscopy has been of unquestionable help¹ by confirming the suspected clinical diagnosis in most cases, even among nonexpert examiners.² Nevertheless, SK may present a dermatoscopic pattern that is atypical or that mimics other tumors. In this issue of *ACTAS DERMOSIFILIOGRÁFICAS*, Mazzeo et al³ perform a retrospective evaluation of a series of 72 SK that had been removed to rule out malignancy. While all the lesions presented characteristic signs of SK, up to 80% presented criteria that suggested a melanocytic lesion, 25% presented polymorphous vessels, whereas 12% of cases of SK presented an overall vascular pattern, and up to 8% presented a blue-white veil. These data are similar to those found in melanomas mimicking SK.⁴ Although these melanomas may show some signs characteristic of SK, they also show signs that suggest a diagnosis of melanoma, such as presenting 80% of the criteria for a melanocytic lesion, the blue-white veil, and atypical blood vessels. It should be remembered that some forms of SK may mimic melanoma and vice versa; therefore, to ensure that no melanoma goes undiagnosed, a 2-step method has been recommended: ruling out a melanocytic lesion before looking for signs of SK.⁵ The presence of a combination of blue and black (another specific sign of suspected malignancy⁶) appears to be rare in atypical SK, but is frequent in melanomas mimicking SK.

In summary, the diagnosis of a lesion suggestive of SK should be confirmed histologically, especially where

ablative treatment is considered, when the lesion presents inconsistent dermatoscopic aspects, such as blue-black or blue-white coloring, a pigmented network, globules, or atypical blood vessels.

References

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