



Cutaneous Metastasis of Colorectal Cancer - A Rare Phenomenon

Sara Lourenço* and Penélope Correia

Department of General Surgery, Centro Hospitalar Entre o Douro e Vouga, Portugal

Clinical Image

Cutaneous metastases are discovered in only about 1.3% of cases at the time of presentation of the primary tumor [1]. If a colon cancer metastasizes to the skin, it typically presents with a painless flesh-colored nodule or as a mass with occasional ulceration [2].

When they present with cutaneous metastasis often there is involvement of secondary organs, such as the liver [3]. They are generally a late manifestation of advanced-stage disease and have a poor prognosis [4].

A 65-years-old man without previous history goes to the emergent department with abdominal pain, anorexia, weight loss, abdominal distension and stopping stool emission. He presents a distended and painful abdomen.

The chest-abdominal-pelvic tomography reports a segmental thickening of the sigmoid, peritoneal carcinomatosis, countless liver nodules and several pulmonary nodules compatible with metastasis.

The blood work presents a CEA levels >15000 µg/L and negative CA19.9. Recto sigmoidoscopy reveals an unremitting lesion, 35 cm from the anal margin.

Patient refers the existence of two skin nodular lesions, painless and hard, one in the dorsal region with 4 cm (Figure 1) and the other in the forearm with 1 cm and 5 cm (Figure 2), that was excised.

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*Correspondence:

Sara Lourenço, Department of General Surgery, Centro Hospitalar Entre o Douro e Vouga, Portugal, Tel: 351915581309;

E-mail: saraflourenco@gmail.com

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Figure 1: Dorsal lesion (4 cm).



Figure 2: Forearm lesion (1 cm, 5 cm).

Two days after, the patient died.

The histological examination revealed: Dermohypodermic metastasis of adenocarcinoma (immunohistochemical profile compatible with gastrointestinal origin).

Cutaneous metastases are rare and when they appear they indicate an advanced disease, for that reason is important a high index of suspicion in patients at risk, for an early diagnosis [5].

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