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Medial canthal pigmented lesion: A rare case of eyelid lichenoid inflammation mistaken for lentigo maligna

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Statement of the Problem: Lichenoid is defined by the pathologist as a bandlike infiltrate of inflammatory cells in the superficial dermis, parallel to the epidermis. Lichenoid tissue reaction is the umbrella term for several uncommon, clinically diverse, and poorly understood inflammatory skin diseases, including lichenoid keratosis and lichen planus. Lichenoid keratosis is a common subtype that typically affects adults >55 years of age and is more common in women. It is usually found on the trunk and upper extremities. Treatment is typically by cryosurgery, electro surgery, or curettage but topical steroid, 5-fluorouracil, and imiquimod may also be used. We present a rare case of lichenoid keratosis of the medial canthus that was treated with tacrolimus ointment.

Methodology and Theoretical Orientation: We present a case report of a patient who attended a district general hospital in Greater London, UK. Findings: An 87-year-old female with no known ocular history saw a dermatologist for a new flat irregularly pigmented 10x7mm macula lesion at the right medial canthus. It had been growing for three to four months and had previous superficial crusting that had fallen off prior to clinic examination. The provisional diagnosis was lentigo maligna and the patient was referred to an ophthalmologist. The patient had a punch biopsy, which demonstrated lichenoid inflammation. The patient was started on topical 0.1% tacrolimus ointment applied twice a day and the lesion completely disappeared at 6 months with no side effects.

Conclusion and Significance: Lichenoid inflammation of the eyelid is rare. It can present as a pigmented lesion that can look like a premalignant/malignant lesion, such as lentigo maligna. Treatment with a topical calcineurin inhibitor can be successful in treating such a lesion.

Biography

Miss Mumta Kanda is an Ophthalmology registrar in London UK.

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