

Well-Differentiated Invasive Squamous Cell Carcinoma in the Foot: A Case Study of a Unique Non-Healing Ulceration

Background and Purpose

- Squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) of the foot are not only relatively rare, but are also less frequently reported in orthopedic literature.
- Chronic non-healing wounds can be great masqueraders of neoplasia.
- Due to a lack of identification and uncertainty, these lesions are frequently subject to delayed treatment.
- Wound care is becoming increasingly common in modern medicine, thus, the responsibility to recognize various wounds comes to the foreground.
- It is our hope that this case study assists with developing a standardized approach to treating such lesions in the foot.. Furthermore, we hope it highlights the importance of preserving a high index of suspicion for malignancy in the setting of chronic, non-healing wounds.

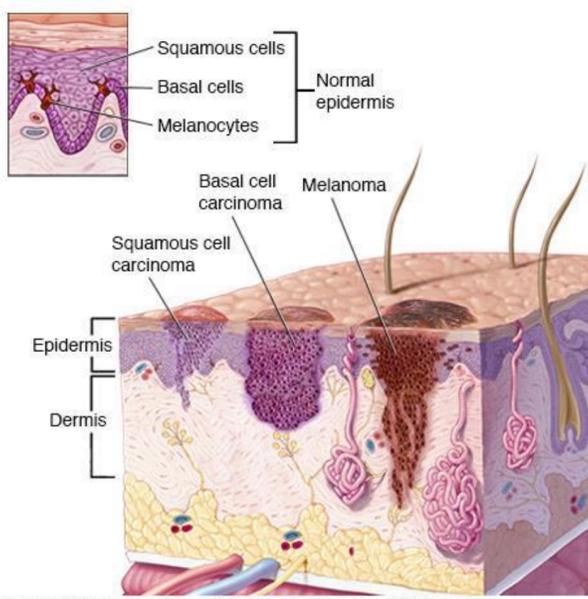


Figure 1. Imaging demonstrating location of squamous cell carcinoma

Case

- An eighty-eight year old male was initially seen by his PCP for a painful, non-healing ulceration.
- The patient was then referred to a hospital-associated wound care clinic after he failed to heal the ulceration with local wound care and oral antibiotics.
- Over the course of multiple appointments at the wound care clinic, he was prescribed another course of oral antibiotics, a topical antifungal cream, as well as a various regimens of local wound care.
- The wound showed no progression over the course of several months and the pain became so severe that it caused the patient a great amount of debility. The patient gradually declined from a cane, to a walker, and then ultimately, to a wheelchair.
- The patient received a diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma, and ultimately underwent a transmetatarsal amputation.
- The transmetatarsal amputation eliminated the SCC and the proximal margins were shown to be free of any neoplasia.
- Throughout his follow-up, there has been no recurrence of wounds, and the patient healed his surgical site adequately.



Figure 2. Photograph of specimen collected from surgical intervention. SCC lesion can be seen involving the fourth digit.

Discussion

- This case study highlights a non-healing wound that was ultimately established as a well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of the foot.
- The goal of this case study is to raise awareness of different etiologies for chronic, non-healing ulcerations.
- A high index of suspicion for malignancy must be held by all practitioners who are involved with the treatment of wounds.



Figure 3. Photograph of specimen collected from surgical intervention. SCC lesion can be seen involving the fourth digit.

References

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