

6TH WORLD FORUM ON BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER



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Pyoderma gangrenosum mimicking inflammatory breast cancer: A case report

Pyoderma gangrenosum (PG) is a rare skin disease characterized by neutrophilic inflammation, often associated with systemic pathologies. Although this condition generally affects other areas of the body, it can occasionally manifest in the breast, where it can mimic neoplastic or infectious lesions. A clinical case illustrates this rare presentation: a 68-year-old Moroccan patient, initially referred for suspected breast cancer, presented with painful, rapidly progressing ulcerative-necrotic lesions on the breast with purplish edges. These lesions were accompanied by localized skin involvement on the leg. Histological examination of the breast lesions revealed a neutrophilic infiltrate, suggesting an inflammatory origin. In addition, worsening of symptoms was observed after a breast biopsy, suggesting a pathergy reaction. Further investigations led to a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), while infectious and tumor assessments were negative. The definitive diagnosis of Pyoderma gangrenosum was confirmed. Combined treatment including corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, and local care was implemented. This case highlights the importance of an accurate differential diagnosis when a breast ulcer is observed, in order to avoid diagnostic errors, prevent inappropriate treatments, and reduce the risk of serious functional and aesthetic consequences for the patient.

Keywords

Pyoderma gangrenosum, Systemic pathologies, Pathergy, Differential diagnosis, Breast ulcer.

Biography

Prof. Essaada BELGLAIAA, HDR, PhD, is the deputy director in charge of Scientific Research, Continuing Education and Cooperation in the Higher Institute of Nursing and Health Techniques (ISPITS) of Béni Mellal, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Morocco. She is a Professor of epidemiology and public health with a PhD from the University of Franche-Comte, Besancon (France) and Ibn Zohr University, Agadir (Morocco). Her research work focuses on cervical cancer and breast cancer (including awareness, screening and diagnosis), HPV vaccination, molecular biology and infectious diseases (HPV, HIV...). Prof. BELGLAIAA has been actively involved in the implementation of the PhD program for nursing students in Morocco.

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Colposcopy at 100: Celebrating Innovation Amid Ethical Shadows

At the turn of 2024 and 2025, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the discovery of colposcopy, a visual diagnostic method that combines screening and treatment of precancerous lesions of the cervix uteri. The colposcope was invented by Hans Hinselmann (1884-1959), who was influential in the unprecedented scale of Germany's national cervical cancer screening program in the 1930s. However, the origins of the use of the colposcope in early diagnosis of cervical cancer relied, at least in part, on medical experiments on inmates in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Contrary to popular belief, these were not pseudo-medical experiments, but research for which there were scientific premises. Another common belief holds that camp medicine is merely a past best forgotten. But is that really the case? The centennial of colposcopy provides an important opportunity to reflect on how science can cast shadows over people. As physicians and medical educators, we have a duty to remember, to remain sensitive, and to stay attentive to the ethical foundations of medical science. The history of the colposcope can serve as an important backdrop for this reflection.

Keywords

colposcopy, cervical cancer, medical experiments, bioethics, Auschwitz, extermination camps

Biography

Marcin Śniadecki, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, senologist, with special interest in gynecological oncology, early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer patients, ultrasound and art in medicine. Author of numerous studies regarding prophylaxis and diagnosis of gynecological and breast cancers. He is a member of EORTC (Breast Cancer Group) and the Management Board of the Polish Senological Section of Polish Society of Gynecological Oncology. He is a supporter of value-based healthcare and slow medicine philosophy.