

Primary squamous cell carcinoma of the breast: Review of literature and about one case



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Introduction: Primary squamous cell carcinoma (PSCC) of the breast is a rare pathology. It represents approximately 0.1% of all breast carcinomas. The histopathogenesis and treatment are still controversial.

Methods: We made a review of literature using the MEDLINE and database of the PubMed system. We used the terms primary, squamous, cell, carcinoma and breast. We have chosen the case reports and articles of the last 10 years. We have found 34 case reports and six series.

Discussion: A tumor is defined as a PSCCB under the following conditions: No other breast cancer components are observed; the cancer is independent of the overlying structures; the patient does not suffer from SCC in other sites such as the esophagus, bronchi, cervix, ovary, bladder and renal pelvis. For some authors it could derivate from a metaplasia occurring in the course of a benign breast disease. For others it is linked to the neoplastic transformation of dermoid or epidermal elements, independent of the overlying skin and of the nipple-areola complex. The patients affected seem to be of varied age. Usually, the circumstances of discovery are related to symptoms induced by the tumor which often has a large volume, with a fast growth over the course of a few weeks only. The initial diagnosis may be difficult to make because of a variable and unspecific radiological presentation. In some cases the tumor is initially manifested by the form of a cyst or breast abscess. Lymph node metastases seem to be uncommon. The histology in favor of the PSCCB can be obtained either by cytological puncture of the fluid

of a cyst or abscess, or by a micro/macrobiopsy or after an initial surgery of lumpectomy or flattening of an abscess. Since this type of tumor is rare, there are no truly accurate data in the literature. The following work aims to review the literature on several cases published over the last 10 years. The analysis focuses on the age of the patients, the circumstances of discovery, the treatments usually used and the observed survival.

Conclusion: This review of the literature follows the case of a patient in our department who presented with a PSCCB. The tumor presented as a cystic component with central necrosis simulating an abscess formation. She was managed by surgery followed by radiotherapy. She is currently under surveillance.

Biography

Rahma Larad Riffault is a colleague of Karl Wehbe and she works in Jean Godinot Institute, France and her research work is based on breast cancer.

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