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Dermoscopy of cutaneous sebaceous carcinomas

Francesco Savoia[1], **Matelda Medri**[1], Serena Magi[1], Laura Mazzoni[1], Ignazio Stanganelli[1, 2]

[1]Skin Cancer Unit, IRCCS Istituto Romagnolo per lo Studio dei Tumori (IRST) "Dino Amadori", Meldola (FC), Italy.
[2]Dermatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Parma, Parma, Italy.

Background. Cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma is a rare adnexal skin cancer that usually affects the head and neck area, with a peculiar predilection for the eyelids, even though extraocular cases have been reported.

Clinically, cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma is a pink-red or yellow solitary nodule.

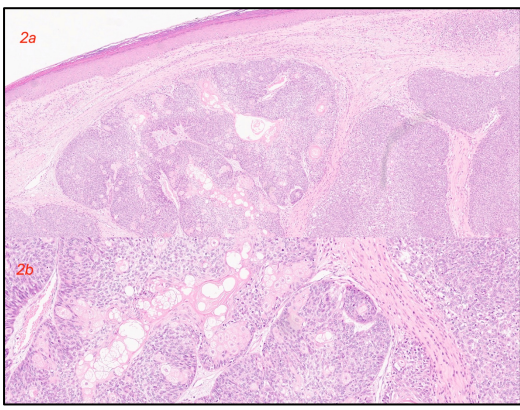
Dermoscopy is a non-invasive technique that can improve the diagnostic accuracy for non-melanoma skin cancer compared to inspection by unaided eye, including sebaceous neoplasms.

Methods. We performed a review of the literature in relation to the dermoscopy of cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma, through Pubmed and Google Scholar.

Results. We found 14 papers describing the dermoscopic features of 33 sebaceous carcinomas, to which we added one case that we recently observed. Our patient referred to us for a rapidly growing pink nodule of the volar surface of his left arm (figure 1a). The lesion was 1.2 cm in its maximum diameter, was firm to palpation, asymptomatic and showed a central white adherent crust. Dermoscopy showed a pink background with milky-red areas, irregular polymorphic vessels, including branching out of focus vessels, white structures and a white crust at the center of the nodule (figure 1b). Surgical excision was performed and histology was consistent with a moderate-differentiated sebaceous carcinoma, involving the reticular dermis (figure 2a and 2b).

The **list of the dermoscopic characteristics of cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma**, that can be variably associated in a single lesion, includes:

- **Yellow color** in 30/34 cases (88.2%)
- **Polymorphous vessels** in 26/34 cases (76.4%)
- **Milky-red areas** in 16/34 cases (47%)
- **Ulceration** in 16/34 cases (47%)
- Crusts in 10/34 cases (29.4%)
- Shiny white structures in 8/34 cases (23.5%)
- Monomorphous vessels in 5/34 cases (14.7%)
- Purple globules in 5/34 cases (14.7%)
- Milia-like cysts in 4/34 cases (11.7%)
- Scales in 3/34 cases (8.8%)
- Erythematous areas in 2/34 cases (5.8%)
- Blue structures in 1/34 cases (2.9%)



According to the Literature, yellow color, polymorphic vessels and ulceration are the most frequently reported dermoscopic features in a single cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma, but milky-red areas should be added to the list, as they are observed in about half of the cases.

Conclusions. Dermoscopy of cutaneous sebaceous carcinoma is variegated and characterized by the combination of different dermoscopic features, including **milky-red areas**, that according to our review **should be added to the most frequently observed characteristics of this cutaneous neoplasm**.

Nome e cognome: Francesco Savoia

Indirizzo affiliazione: Skin Cancer Unit, IRCCS Istituto Romagnolo per lo Studio dei Tumori (IRST) "Dino Amadori", via Piero Maroncelli 40, 47014, Meldola (FC), Italy.

Email: francesco.savoia@irst.emr.it - Phone: 0039/0543/739100 - Fax: 0039/0543/739123