

Clinicomorphologic Spectrum of Basal Cell Carcinoma: A Series of Twelve Cases

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Abstract

Basal cell carcinoma is a non-melanocytic skin cancer that arises from basal cells. It is the most common skin malignancy in the developed world, while in India it is second to squamous cell carcinoma. Neglected tumors can continue to grow and lead to significant local destruction and disfigurement. Therefore, early diagnosis is essential. Here, is presented a series of twelve cases of basal cell carcinoma showing a spectrum of clinical presentation, including age, gender, and site of occurrence. Also, the varying patterns on microscopic examination are discussed. Prevalence in older age group was noted. The most common site was observed to be head and neck region. However, in contrast to previous studies, a female preponderance was observed. Different morphological types such as undifferentiated, pigmented, and spindle-cell variants were seen. It is important to differentiate basal cell carcinoma from other skin tumors and also type the tumors as the prognosis and risk of recurrence depends on subtype.

Keywords: Basal cell carcinoma, Pigmented variant, Spindle cell variant.

Introduction

Basal cell carcinoma is the second most frequent non-melanoma skin cancer in India following squamous cell carcinoma.¹ It occurs predominantly on sun-exposed areas. Basal cell carcinomas arise from basally located cells of the epidermis and pilosebaceous units and differentiate incompletely in the direction of adnexal structures.² Basal cell carcinomas are known to occur more in men as compared to women.¹

Case Series

Here, is presented a series of thirteen cases of basal cell carcinoma reported in a tertiary care hospital in Delhi over a period of one year.

The authors have studied the age distribution, gender predilection, and histopathologic spectrum of basal cell carcinoma cases as follows (Table 1).

S. No.	Age	Sex	Site of occurrence	Histological type
1.	58	F	forehead	Classical
2.	49	F	Right ala of nose	Classical
3.	62	F	scalp	Classical
4.	46	M	Forehead	Pigmented variant of basal cell carcinoma
5.	62	F	Nose	Classical
6.	65	F	Eyelid	Pigmented variant of basal cell carcinoma
7.	58	M	Scalp	Classical
8.	55	F	Scalp	Classical
9.	52	F	Scalp	Classical
10.	74	F	Nose	Classical
11.	62	F	Tip of nose	Pigmented variant of basal cell carcinoma
12.	70	F	Scalp	Spindle cell variant of basal carcinoma

Table 1. Clinicomorphologic Spectrum of Basal Cell Carcinoma Cases

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It was seen that the age group of occurrence of basal cell carcinoma was 46 to 74 years. The male to female ratio was 0.2. Ten of the total 12 cases were females. The most common histologic pattern was classical undifferentiated pattern (Fig. 1), accounting for eight

out of twelve cases, followed by three cases of pigmented variant of basal cell carcinoma (Fig. 2), and one case of spindle-cell variant of basal cell carcinoma (Fig. 3).

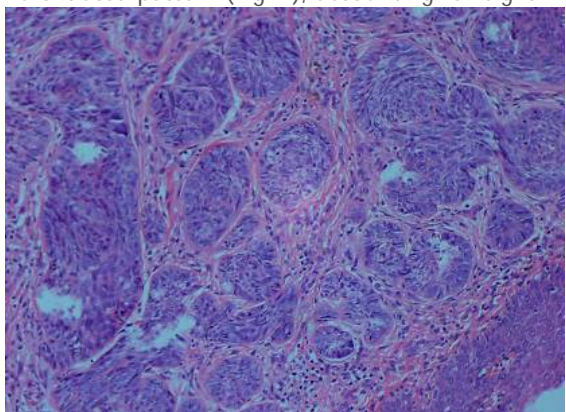


Figure 1. Classical undifferentiated pattern

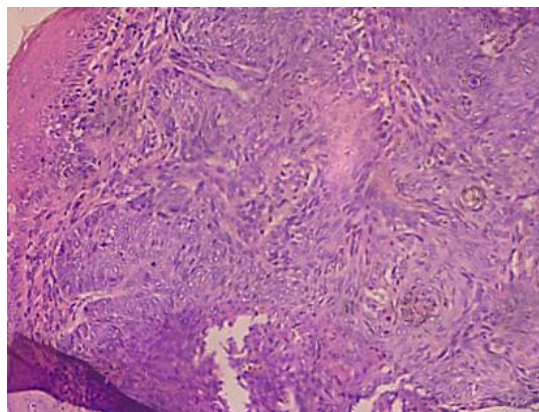


Figure 2. Pigmented variant of basal cell carcinoma

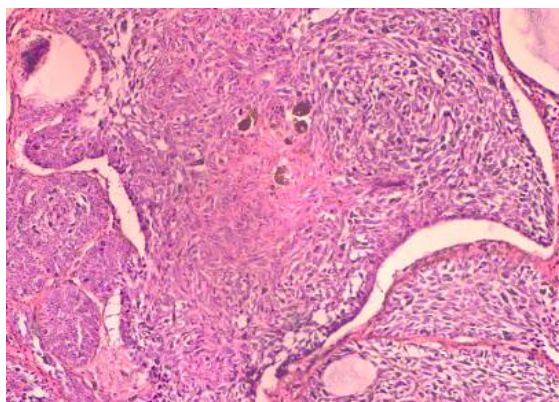


Figure 3. Spindle-cell variant of basal cell carcinoma

Discussion

The above case series represents a histopathological and epidemiological spectrum of basal cell carcinoma cases. It is important to differentiate basal cell carcinoma from other skin tumors and also type the tumors as the prognosis and risk of recurrence depends on subtype.

References

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