

Acral Amelanotic Melanoma

Melanoma Amelanótico Acral



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Figure 1 – Acral amelanotic melanoma

Acral melanomas are rare,¹ representing 2% - 3% of all melanomas.² However, the fatality rate is higher because of delayed diagnosis.¹⁻³ They are more common on weight-bearing areas of the foot^{2,4,5} and are frequently amelanotic sometimes mimicking fungal infections, diabetic foot ulcers or even plantar warts.¹⁻³

A 66-year-old woman was seen for a seven-month history of asymptomatic and ulcerated pink nodules, located on her left calcaneus. The lesions had developed spontaneously, and she was receiving wound care treatment for the last three months with no improvement. The histopathological examination revealed an acral lentiginous melanoma with a thickness (Breslow) of 6 mm extending into the subcutaneous tissue (Clark level V), which was managed with surgery and isolated limb perfusion (sentinel lymph node biopsy was positive with no other evidence of distant disease).

This case highlights the importance of considering melanoma in the differential diagnosis of non-healing ulcerated foot lesions. Surgery is the definitive treatment for early-stage disease while medical management is generally reserved for adjuvant treatment.^{2,3}

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS: The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association. **DATA CONFIDENTIALITY:** The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication. **INFORMED CONSENT:** Obtained. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** All authors report no conflict of interest. **FUNDING SOURCES:** The authors declare that there were no external sources of study for the performance of this article.

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