

Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans of the Forehead

B Sayanthan¹, S Lavanya², R Ramprasad² and M Udukala²

Batticaloa Medical Journal 2016; 7: 32 – 33.

Introduction

Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans (DFSP) is an uncommon fibrohistiocytic tumour. It is a slow to intermediate growing tumour and commonly affects middle aged people. DFSP commonly occurs in the trunk and then the limbs. The potential for distant metastasis is low, but in DFSP local recurrences are common (1).

Case report

A 33 year old male had observed a small lump in the forehead region 8 months ago. He had been symptomless and had had no history of weight loss, night sweats, fevers or chills. The lymph nodes in the head and neck region and the axillae had been non-palpable. The lump had gradually increased in size. It had been clinically diagnosed as a sebaceous cyst and surgical excision had been done, but he had not received the histological report.

A couple of months later he had developed a lump at same site of the forehead and this had gradually increased in size. The history was uneventful and the examination findings were similar to the first episode.

Thereafter, he underwent surgery again with the histology indicating that it was a Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans (DFSP) with margin involvement.

Therefore, he underwent a wide local excision with full thickness skin grafting of the defect.

Histology and immuno-histochemistry confirmed the diagnosis.

Discussion

Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans (DFSP) is a very rare type of a soft tissue sarcoma, which originates in the deep layer of skin.



Fig. 1 Photo taken before surgery for the recurrence

DFSP had been first discussed in literature in the 1890s, but Darier and Ferrand first documented it as a distinct cutaneous disease in 1924. In 1925 Hoffman used the term of “dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans” (2).

DFSP accounts for less than 0.1% of all malignancies as well as 1% of all soft tissue sarcomata. DFSP is the most common type of skin sarcoma. The incidence of DFSP is very low and in United States the incidence of DFSP has been estimated to be 0.85 cases per million population per year (2). It shows a male predominance.

DFSP usually starts as a small, thickening of the skin and ultimately the size varies between one to five cms. The colour can be variable, including the colour of normal skin.

The lump gradually increases in size over months to years (3).

In the early stages, the lesions may clinically resemble benign skin lesions and lead to confusion in diagnosis and delay in treatment. But in advanced stages lesions are ulcerated. Occasionally these tumours contain gelatinous material or altered blood in degenerated cystic areas. Redness and pain occurs in only 15% of cases (3,4).

¹Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. ²National Cancer Institute, Maharagama. Correspondence should be addressed to BS (email – srisayan@yahoo.com).

