

A Rare Case of Metastatic Basal Cell Carcinoma

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Abstract : Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the commonest cutaneous malignancy affecting humans. Despite this, distant spread is exceptionally rare. Metastatic BCC (mBCC) is estimated to occur in 0.0028 - 0.5%. it aim to illustrate with the aid of histological slides, a case of mBCC occurring in a fit and well 67-year-old. Initial diagnosis of desmoplastic BCC was made in 2006 from a scalp biopsy with the lesion then being excised. Re-excision of local recurrence was undertaken the following year. In 2014 the patient presented with an ipsilateral level 2a mass. Fine Needle Aspiration raised the suspicion of metastatic carcinoma. The patient had excision of two nodes from the left neck alongside pharyngeal tonsillectomy and tongue base biopsies. Histologically, the nodes closely resembled the immunophenotype of the initial scalp lesion. The patient subsequently had a modified radical neck dissection, and residual mBCC was excised from the left Sternocleidomastoid muscle. In 2023 the patient developed haematuria. On further investigation bilateral lung lesions on CT were noted with subsequent biopsy confirming mBCC. Spinal and renal lesions have also been found. Histopathology showed clear resemblance of the lung metastases to both those in the neck and the primary (scalp BCC) - with no squamous differentiation seen. The time span from primary to occurrence of lung metastasis (18 years) affirms the indolent and slow growing nature of BCC. This case fulfils Lattes and Kessler diagnostic criteria. High risk cases are described as those with advanced local presentation, primary tumour on the Head and Neck and locally recurrent lesions.

Keywords : BCC, metastasis, rare, skin cancer

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