

Case 14

A 13 years old Thai girl from Bangkok.

Chief complaint: Asymptomatic nodule at the right forearm 6 months PTA.

Present illness: 6 months PTA, she had asymptomatic erythematous nodule at the right forearm.

Past History: She has been healthy.

Family History: No one in her family has the same skin lesions.

Physical examination:

Skin: Solitary erythematous nodule ,soft consistency ,1.5 cm in diameter at the.

Oral mucosa: normal

Otherwise are unremarkable

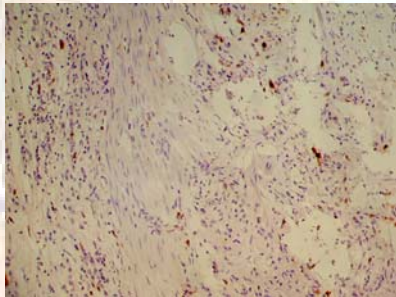


Fig 14.1

Fig 14.2

Histopathology (S 03-13757)

The specimen shows a proliferation of atypical spindle cells mostly arrange in nest in the upper dermis, the atypical spindle cells show large pleomorphic nuclei and numerous mitotic figure.

Special staining: Pending

Diagnosis: Atypical spindle cell tumor

Treatment: Wide local excision.

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Discussion:

Amelanotic malignant melanoma (AMM) often defies clinical diagnosis because of its wide range of clinical appearances and lack of pigmentation. Biopsy of AMM typically yields the correct diagnosis, although the histological findings, especially in metastatic lesions, occasionally may be confused with other malignancies. In cases histologically challenging, immunohistochemical techniques frequently provide diagnostic information.

Multiple mechanisms to explain amelanosis have been suggested, all resulting in a single, common amelanotic phenotype. Appropriate studies to compare outcomes of amelanotic versus pigmented melanomas have not been performed. Treatment recommendations for AMM are identical to those for pigmented melanomas, although accurately defining clinical margins of the neoplasm often is challenging. A retrospective study of 18 cases of amelanotic melanoma, with average combined age of 56 years, varying from 24 years to 86 years. Showed the lesions of 2.7 cm. in average size. The location was: extremities = 7, thoracic wall = 5, upper limb = 2, and lower limb = 2. Amelanotic melanoma is rare, in accordance with the literature. They pointed out, that the rarity or the lack of the melanic pigment within the tumors cells, made the clinical diagnosis much more complex.

References:

1. Rutowitsch MS, Garrido Neves R, Ferreira De Castro O. Amelanotic melanoma, Study of 18 cases. Med Cutan Ibero Lat Am. 1990;18(1):49-57
2. Adler MJ, White CR Jr. Amelanotic malignant melanoma. Semin Cutan Med Surg. 1997;16(2):122-30



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