

Single Case

CD30+ Cutaneous Anaplastic Large-Cell Lymphoma of the Upper Eyelid: A Case Report

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Keywords

CD30+ cutaneous anaplastic large-cell lymphoma · Eyelid · Lymphoma · T-cell lymphoma

Abstract

CD30+ cutaneous anaplastic large-cell lymphoma is part of the CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders. This type of lymphoma is in most cases indolent, with a high survival rate. We report the case of a 59-year-old patient with a 1-month lasting crusty lesion of the upper eyelid. Eyelid involvement is very uncommon, as the most frequent locations are the trunk and the limbs.

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Introduction

It can be difficult to diagnose a CD30+ cutaneous anaplastic large-cell lymphoma (ALCL), especially when the clinical presentation is uncommon. The final diagnosis is generally made by taking the clinical aspect into account, the evolution, and the pathology of the lesion.

Case Report

We report the case of a 59-year-old female patient who presented with a painless lesion of the left upper eyelid (Fig. 1) for 1 month. The lesion was roundish and crusted and had an infiltrated appearance. No peripheral lymph nodes were found. The bacteriological culture from the swab was negative and the skin biopsy was not relevant, probably due to insufficient skin material obtained. The lesion was thus completely excised by means of a bilateral blepharoplasty (Fig. 2).

The pathological analysis (Fig. 3) showing a dense lymphocytic infiltration, with a coexpression of CD8 and CD30 antigen (Fig. 4), could have been either in favor of a CD30+ lymphoproliferation or a primary cutaneous CD8+ aggressive epidermotropic cytotoxic T-cell lymphoma.

Regarding the good general health of the patient, the clinical examination, the immunopathological analysis, and the PET scan (showing no particularity), the diagnosis of a primary cutaneous CD30+ ALCL was made. After 2 years, we did not notice any sign of relapse at clinical examination.

Discussion

Primary cutaneous CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferations (that account for 20–30% of the cutaneous lymphomas) include CD30+ cutaneous ALCL, lymphomatoid papulosis, but also “atypical” (borderline) cases.

CD30+ cutaneous ALCL is an indolent lymphoma, with a survival rate of 96% at 5 years [1]. It is often an asymptomatic, unique, reddish-purple nodular lesion. The surface may often be ulcerated. The most frequent locations are the trunk and limbs. In this case, the lesion was located on the upper eyelid, which is a very uncommon location. In the literature, we found only 12 cases of CD30+ cutaneous ALCL involving the eyelid [2–12]. Only 5% of ocular adnexal lymphomas involve the eyelid, among which only 44% are of T-cell origin, most frequently represented by mycosis fungoides (13%), high-grade extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma (6%), and low-grade primary cutaneous ALCL (6%) [13]. CD30+ cutaneous ALCL seems to affect more frequently the upper eyelid (83%) compared to the lower eyelid [13], which was the case for our patient.

Pathological analysis usually shows atypical cells with a variable morphology (anaplastic, pleomorphic, or immunoblastic). At least 75% of the tumoral cells strongly express the CD30 antigen [14].

The clinical examination, the evolution, and the pathological analysis should be considered all together before making this diagnosis, when the clinical presentation is atypical.

Spontaneous regression is observed in approximately 30% of the cases [15]. In other cases, the treatment of localized forms consists in surgery, with or without radiotherapy. Recurrences after local treatment are, however, frequent (about 50%), but they do not alter the long-term prognosis. In disseminated form, polychemotherapy must be considered as there is a greater risk of extracutaneous extension.

In conclusion, CD30+ cutaneous ALCL is a relatively common type of cutaneous lymphoma. Palpebral involvement is very rare, but this diagnosis should nevertheless be evoked when a lesion of this type occurs.

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Statement of Ethics

The authors state that the subject has given her informed consent.

Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Fig. 1. Clinical aspect of a primary cutaneous CD30+ anaplastic large-cell lymphoma located on the left upper eyelid.



Fig. 2. Appearance of the eyelids after bilateral blepharoplasty.

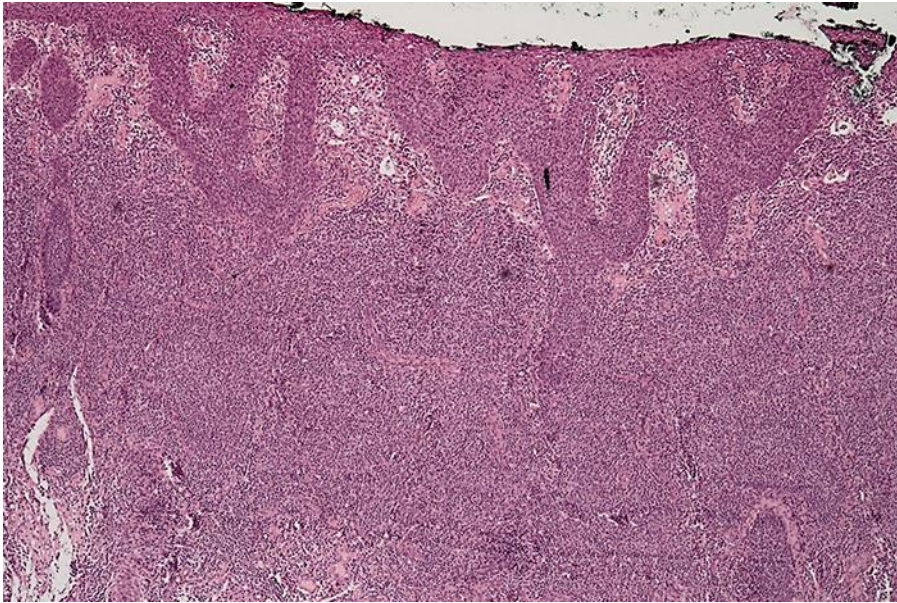


Fig. 3. Pathological analysis. Massive infiltration of the epidermis and the dermis by small atypical lymphocytes (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification $\times 50$).

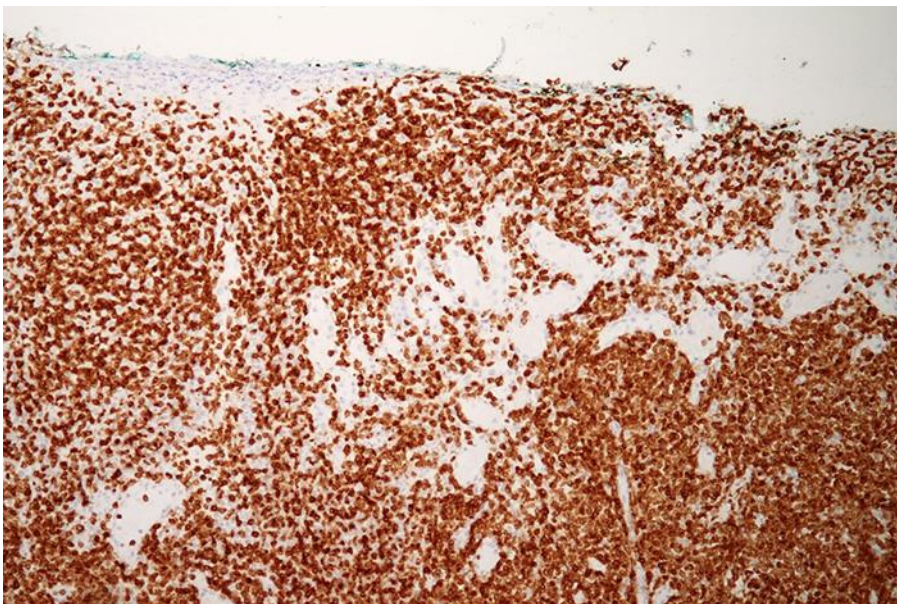


Fig. 4. Immunopathological analysis. Strong positivity for CD30 and CD8. Note the important lymphocytic epidermotropism (CD30 immunohistochemistry, original magnification $\times 100$).