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CLINICAL IMAGE

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans of the scalp

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Abstract

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans is a rare entity. Due to its high propensity for local recurrence, knowledge of the appropriate management, both surgical and medical, is important for optimal patient outcomes.

KEYWORDS

dermatology, general surgery, oncology

A 57-year-old woman presented to a plastic surgery department with a large parieto-occipital lesion (Figure 1). The mass began as a purple papule 4 years ago and slowly enlarged. On examination, the lesion was a non-tender, firm, non-pulsatile soft tissue mass, which was not fixed to the underlying periosteum. She had no associated lymphadenopathy. She underwent an incisional biopsy which showed a tumor extensively replacing the dermis, composed of bland spindle cells with a focally storiform growth pattern. Immunohistochemistry stained diffusely for CD34, features in keeping with dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP). Radiological staging showed no other disease. She successfully underwent wide excision and local flap reconstruction.

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans is a rare soft tissue tumor of mesenchymal origin, with low metastatic potential but a high propensity for local recurrence. Incidence rates are between 0.8 and 4.5 cases per million persons per year.[1] Chromosomal translocation leading to fusion of platelet-derived growth factor-beta polypeptide gene (PDGFB), chromosome 22 and collagen type 1A1 gene (COL1A1), chromosome 17 is present in over 90% of DFSP.[2] Recommended treatment is wide local excision. Adjuvant radiotherapy is recommended for unresectable

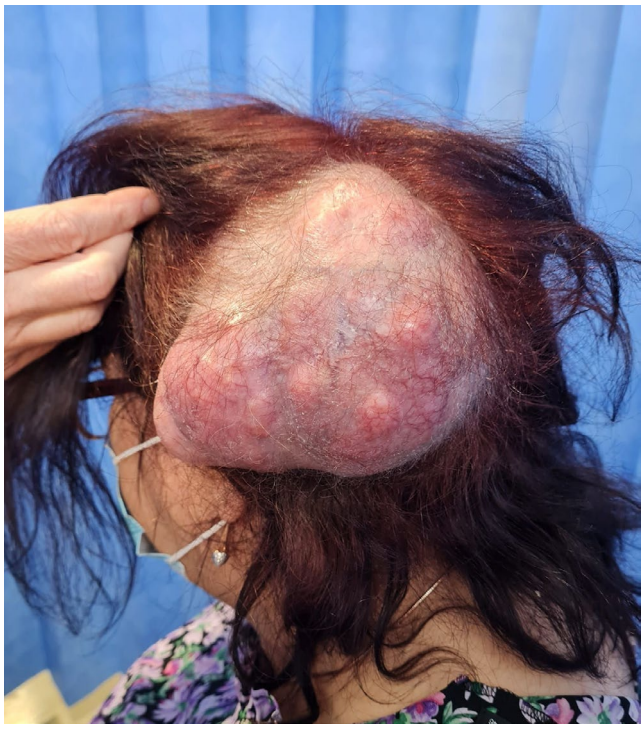

FIGURE 1 Large dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans of the scalp

disease, positive margins, or in the setting of recurrence. Imatinib mesylate, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, can be used for recurrent, unresectable, or metastatic disease.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
None.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION
MA and SK drafted and reviewed the article. DJ reviewed the article.

ETHICAL APPROVAL
The regional Research Ethics Committee judged that this work was exempt from ethical review. Written patient consent was obtained for this publication.

CONSENT
Written informed consent was received from the patient for the use of her image and case details.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
None.

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