Images in Clinical Practice

Mutilating basal cell carcinoma



Figure 1: Mutilating basal cell carcinoma of the helix of the right ear

An elderly retired school teacher presented with a neglected ulcer over his right ear of 7 years duration. It began as a nodule and gradually eroded the ear lobe. At presentation, there was a large, deep mutilating ulcer measuring about 4×4 cm almost involving the helix of the right ear. The ulcer showed indurated edges, an erythematous base and a depressed floor with hemorrhagic, crusted and necrotic material [Figure 1]. Telangiectasia was noted just above the ulcer. Histopathological examination showed a features suggestive of basal cell carcinoma. We referred him to the plastic surgeon for reconstructive surgery.

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