

Pigmented superficial basal cell carcinoma below the nipple



Figure 1: A pigmented plaque below the nipple with a rough surface and multiple scabs

A 68-year-old woman presented with a seven-year history of an asymptomatic grey-black plaque below her left nipple. The lesion was well-defined and 3.5×2.5 cm in size. It had a rough surface, uneven pigment distribution and multiple scabs [Figure 1]. There was no palpable breast mass or lump. Lesional biopsy showed isolated basaloid lobules projecting from the lower margin of the epidermis and melanin within the tumour cells. A diagnosis of pigmented superficial basal cell carcinoma was made. Extensive resection was performed on this lesion.

Superficial basal cell carcinoma presents mainly on the trunk as a slowly enlarging, scaly red patch. However, this superficial variant, below the nipple, containing pigment may cause clinical confusion with melanoma and pigmented Paget's disease.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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