A Case of Multiple Agminated Spitz Nevi Showing Desmoplastic Changes

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We report a case of multiple agminated Spitz nevi in a 16-year-old boy who presented with multiple nodules on the right side of his face. His past history revealed that there had been erythematous and brown colored papules on the same site at the age of four. At that time one lesion was excised and histopathological findings showed fairly well circumscribed spindle and epithelioid cell nests consistent with a Spitz nevus. Twelve years later, he presented with multiple agminated brown to black colored nodules on the face. Microscopic evaluation revealed nevus cells diffusely distributed throughout the dermis showing no or little junctional activity. In addition, these cells were embedded in a strikingly desmoplastic stroma which consisted of acellular collagen fiber. Immunohistochemical staining for S-100 protein was positive. To our knowledge this is the first report of multiple agminated Spitz nevi in Korea.

Key Words : Agminated, Desmoplastic, Spitz nevus

Spitz nevus is a benign melanocytic lesion that shares many melanocytic features with malignant melanoma. The solitary form, which is the most common, usually arises during early life and appears as a pink or brown dome shaped nodule on the head and neck. In rare instances, multiple tumors are encountered either agminated in one area or widely disseminated. Desmoplastic changes are noted in some Spitz nevi. We present a case of multiple agminated Spitz nevi showing desmoplastic changes.

CASE REPORT

A 16-year-old male visited our department for the evaluation of multiple brown to black colored nodules arising in a hyperpigmented area on the right side of his face (Fig.1). His past history revealed that there had been erythematous and brown colored papules on the same site at the age of four (Fig.2). At that time one of the papules was excised. A microscopic review of the biopsy block revealed fairly well circumscribed spindle and epithelioid cell nests in the upper dermis (Fig.3) and an eosinophilic globoid body (Kamino body) in the epidermis (Fig.4). Immunohistochemical staining for S-100 protein was positive. Since that time, the number and size of the papules have been progressively increasing and enlarging in size on the right side of face only. When he was seen again at the age of sixteen, his general condition was relatively healthy and on physical examination, the cervical lymph nodes were not palpable and there were no other similar skin tumors on the rest of his body. Routine laboratory tests including a complete blood cell count, urinalysis, liver function test and chest X-ray were negative or within normal limits. A biopsy specimen was obtained from a black colored nodule. Microscopic evaluation revealed nevus cells diffusely distributed throughout the dermis. Nevus cells were embedded in a strikingly desmoplastic stroma which consisted of acel-
Fig. 1. Brown to black colored multiple agminate nodules arising in an area of slight hyperpigmentation on the right side of the face.

Fig. 2. Multiple erythematous and brown colored papules on the right side of the face.

Fig. 3. Fairly well circumscribed spindle and epithelioid nevus cells in the dermis (H & E stain, ×200).

Fig. 4. Eosinophilic globoid body (arrow) in the epidermis (H & E stain, ×200).

lular collagen fiber and showed no or little junctional activity (Fig. 5). Some nevus cells had intranuclear inclusion bodies. With increasing depth, these nevus cells became smaller and looked more like the cells of the common melanocytic nevus. Immunohistochemical staining revealed positivity to S-100 protein (Fig. 6) and vimentin but negativity to cytokeratin suggesting that these cells originated from the melanocytic nevus.

Surgical excision of some nodules were done and a follow-up examination for 2 years revealed no evidence of recurrence.

COMMENT

Spitz nevus usually arises during the first two decades of life and appears as a pink or brown dome-shaped nodule on the head, neck, leg, or trunk. The solitary form is the most common but