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| Author(s) | Park, Sang-Ik; Cho, Kyoung-Oh |
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Dermal melanocytoma-acanthoma in an adult mixed breed dog

Sang-Ik Park and Kyoung-Oh Cho*

Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, Korea

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Abstract
A cutaneous melanocytoma-acanthoma was diagnosed in a 7-year-old intact female mixed breed dog. Grossly, this tumor was a solitary and darkly pigmented nodule located in the face. Histologically, the lesions consisted of melanocytic and epithelial tumor cells. The melanocytic component consisted predominantly of large round-to-polygonal and heavily pigmented melanocytic cells arranged in nests and clusters. These melanocytes were positive for S-100 and vimentin. The epithelial component was composed of multiple small horn cysts with concentric keratin within the cyst lumina and was positive for cytokeratin. Atypism was not observed in both components. Since this tumor has previously been reported in only two dogs, this report adds to the data that will help determining predilections of age, breed, sex and site.

Key words: dog, melanocytoma-acanthoma, skin.

Melanocytoma-acanthoma is a benign mixed tumor of dogs that has features of both melanocytoma and epithelial neoplasia. This tumor is an extremely rare skin neoplasm in dogs, described only twice in the veterinary literature. Therefore, age, breed, sex, and site predilections remain unclear. This report describes the histological and immunohistochemical features of a melanocytoma-acanthoma in an adult mixed breed dog.

A 7-year-old intact female mixed breed dog was admitted to the local animal clinic in Busan, South Korea with a solitary and darkly pigmented nodule located in the skin 1.5 cm from the right eye toward the nose. The duration of the nodule was unknown. The 0.8 cm-diameter mass was circumscribed, alopecic, fleshy, and dome-shaped. There were no other clinical signs or evidence of metastasis.

A biopsy specimen was fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, embedded in paraffin, sectioned, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). The selected sections were bleached for melamins using a potassium permanganate-oxalic acid method (KMnO₄/OA) and then were further subjected to H&E staining and immunohistochemical evaluation.

The immunohistochemical study was

*Corresponding author: Kyoung-Oh Cho, Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, South Korea Phone: +82-62-530-2845. Fax: +82-62-530-0835. E-mail: choko@chonnam.ac.kr
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Cysts, melanin granules were present in the cytoplasm of some epithelium and keratin pearls. Surrounding regions showed purulent inflammation and bacteria colonies. Neither mitotic figures nor mitotic atypia were observed.

Immunohistochemically, the epithelial components of multiple small horn cysts as well as normal epithelial layers were positive for cytokeratin, but were negative for vimentin, desmin, and S-100 (Fig. 2A). In contrast, melanocytic cells were positive for S-100 and vimentin, but were negative for cytokeratin and desmin (Fig. 2B). In addition, melanin granules in some epithelial cells in horn cysts and in the keratin pearls showed positive reaction for S-100.

Based on the histologic and immunohistochemical features, this tumor was diagnosed as melanocytoma-acanthoma. Differential diagnoses for melanocytoma-acanthoma are very limited, since the melanocytoma and acanthoma components of this tumor are very unique. The cell component and morphology of this tumor was somewhat similar to melanocytic matricoma, pigmented pilomatricoma, trichoepithelioma, and tricholemmoma.

The benign epithelial cell tumor observed here was somewhat similar to the late stage of proliferating isthmus-catagen cyst or infundibular...
Fig. 1. Melanocytoma-acanthoma. (A) Tumor lesion consists of nests of epithelioid pigmented cells and nests of well-differentiated squamous epithelium. H&E stain. Bar = 500 μm. (B) Higher magnification of melanocytoma-acanthoma of Fig. 1A. Note intraepithelial nests of heavily pigmented melanocytes and squamous epithelium making horn cyst. H&E strain. Bar = 100 μm.
Fig. 2. Melanocytoma-akanthoma. (A) Cytokeratin appears in epithelial cells of horn cysts, but not in melanocytic cells. Note intraepithelial nest of melanocytes surrounded by cytokeratin-positive epithelial cells. Bar = 50 μm. (B) S-100 proteins are present in both nuclei and cytoplasms of the melanocytic cells. Note intraepithelial and extraepithelial S-100-positive melanocytes. Bar = 50 μm. (Figs. A–B) SAB method after bleaching melanin granules, DAB chromogen, Mayor’s hematoxylin counterstain.
keratinizing acanthoma\textsuperscript{1-4}). The proliferating isthmus-catagen cyst, an uncommon variant of the isthmus-catagen cyst, has short trabecular projections into the surrounding dermis from the epithelium of the cyst wall\textsuperscript{1-5}. When this tumor proliferates continuously and has increased cystic structures, this lesion resembles the early stage of infundibular keratinizing acanthoma\textsuperscript{3-5}, which has broad trabecular projections of epithelium extending outward from the cyst wall that develops in the late stage to numerous small keratinous cysts within the trabeculae\textsuperscript{4,9}. Finally, the mature lesion has a central cyst whose upper portion is usually open, forming a cup-shaped structure. Given these data, the present benign epithelial lesions may represent a late stage of infundibular keratinizing acanthoma because they consisted of multiple small keratinous cysts within the trabeculae\textsuperscript{1-5,9}.

Many tumor cells in the melanocytoma component observed in this study had heavily pigmented melanin granules. These tumor cells were positive for S-100 and vimentin, but not for cytokeratin and desmin. On sections treated with the bleaching method, atypism was not observed. Therefore, the melanocytoma compartment of this tumor is compatible with compound melanocytoma. This type has tumor cells in the dermis, and dermal-epidermal or follicular components\textsuperscript{4,7}. The present tumor was also present in the dermis and dermal-epidermal component.

In the present study, a unique benign mixed tumor in the skin of a dog was reported.

References