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Letter to Editor

Lipomatous congenital intradermal melanocytic nevus: A rare occurrence

Sir,

Intradermal nevus with adipocytic metaplasia is a common senescent change typically encountered in elderly individuals between the ages of 40 and 49 years and rarely seen in a congenital intradermal melanocytic nevus. Nevi with fat occur four times more commonly in women than men. The most frequent location is the head and neck. Most nevi with fat are intradermal. The appearance of fat within nevi is probably a multifactorial process associated with age and sun exposure. Histopathologic changes associated with aging of melanocytic nevi are fatty degeneration, fibrosis, and neural changes. Intradermal nevus with adipocytic metaplasia is characterized histologically by fat cell infiltration amidst nests of nevus cells in dermis. We, hereby, report a rare case of intradermal nevus with adipocytic metaplasia occurring in a congenital nevus.

A 1-month female presented with single lobulated soft nodule measuring 2 cm × 3 cm on the back since birth. A clinical diagnosis of neurofibroma/neurocristic hematoma was made. Incisional biopsy was performed which on histopathology showed intradermal nests of nevus cells with interspersed mature adipocytes (Fig. 1).

1. Intradermal nevi are elevated, fleshy, and slightly or moderately pigmented papules. The variance in shape, size, or color of the lesion reflects the evolutionary process in which the nevi extend downward with age and nevus cells degenerate or become replaced by collagen, fat, and fibrous tissue. Cho et al. reported three cases of intradermal nevi with an unusual growth pattern which clinically showed lobulation. These were seen in younger age group and histologically showed prominent fat cell infiltration amidst nests of nevus cells, neuroid differentiation of nevus cells, and dermal fibrosis [1]. Cho et al. named the lesions "lobulated intradermal nevus" and suggested that their cases were an unusual form of regressing melanocytic nevus with lipomatous changes which are commonly seen in patients older than 50 years and that these changes in young age are a rare finding. Kim et al., in 2011, reported four cases of lobulated intradermal nevus with fibrotic and fatty degeneration in female patients with age ranging from 21 to 31 years [2]. Very few cases of intradermal nevus with lipomatous changes have been reported in young individuals, all of whom were interestingly females [3]. No case of congenital nevus showing lipomatous change has been reported in the literature. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of such a case in the literature.

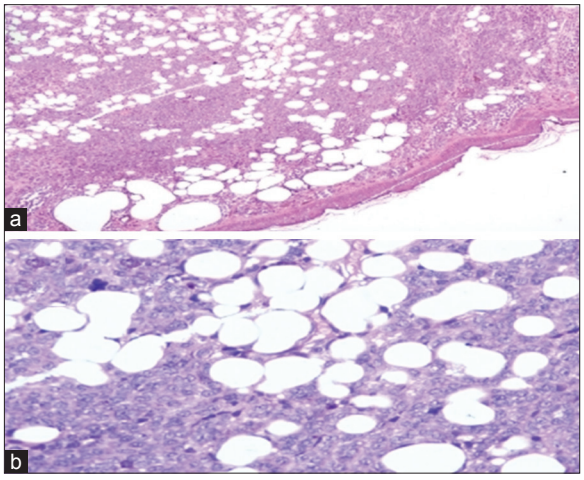

Figure 1: Intradermal nests of nevus cells with interspersed mature adipocytes (a) H and E stain ×10, (b) H and E stain ×40

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