

Hyperkeratotic (Verrucous) Kaposi's sarcoma; An Unusual Presentation

Dilshad Mallon*, Alice Miller and Eleanor Grey

Department of Dermatology, Imperial College Healthcare Trust, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author*

Dilshad Sachedina
Department of Dermatology, Imperial College Healthcare Trust, United Kingdom
E-mail: dsachedina@gmail.com
Tel: 07708457364

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Clinical Findings

A 79 year old patient born in Sudan was referred with a painless warty, verrucous cutaneous horn present on the sole of the foot. He reported it had been present for 1 year and had not changed in size over this time (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Clinical picture of the patient verrucous cutaneous horn present on the sole of the foot.

Histopathological Finding

Histology showed verrucous hyperplasia of the epidermis with an underlying nodule showing features typical of nodular Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS). Stain for HHV-8 was positive (Figure 2).

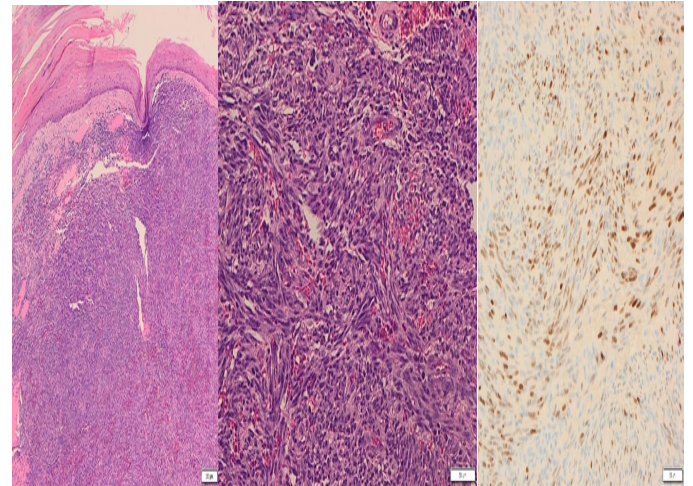


Figure 2. Histopathology showing features typical of kaposi's sarcoma'.

Discussion

Kaposi sarcoma is a malignancy caused by the Human Herpes Virus 8 (HHV-8). It is no longer classified as a sarcoma and is understood to be due to multicentric vascular hyperplasia of endothelial cells of blood and lymphatic vessels. There are four clinical types of KS based on etiology; Classic (Mediterranean) type KS usually affects older males of Mediterranean or Eastern European descent or from sub-Saharan Africa; Epidemic KS associated with Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection; Endemic (African) KS occurs in Equatorial Africa in young adults; Iatrogenic KS occurs as a result of immunosuppressive therapy. Kaposi's sarcoma usually presents as flat patches which evolve into raised plaques and nodules. There is now increasing awareness of rarer clinical and histological variants. Hyperkeratotic (or verrucous) subtype is an example of this and has only recently been described. It is usually linked to severe KS-associated lymphedema in patients with AIDS however in this instance it is seen in the Classic type.