



Diagnosing Spiradenoma: The importance of maintaining a broad differential to prevent misdiagnosis

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INTRODUCTION

- **Spiradenomas** are a rare neoplasm that are often located in head and neck regions.
- Due to varied presentations which can be both **asymptomatic and symptomatic**, it can be misclassified for more conditions such as **angioma, angioleiomyoma, glomus tumor and lipomas**.¹
- Although spiradenoma can be classified as benign in the beginning of their growth, they have a quick rate of **metastasis into malignancy** and should be **treated surgically** to prevent transformation.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this case study is to **demonstrate the importance of maintaining a broad differential when diagnosing a skin mass** to provide the **best care and outcome for patients**.

CASE DESCRIPTION

- **History of Present Illness**
 - A 52-year-old female presented to a family medicine clinic with **painless nodule on right arm**.
 - Reports **being asymptomatic** with no muscle atrophy, swelling, muscle aches or joint pain.
 - She reports **noticing the nodule a few months ago** due to it being a new growth but **reports no change in size** recently.
 - Currently taking no medications that would have a direct effect on the nodule.
- **Physical Exam**
 - **Full range of motion in both arms, no tenderness or redness.**
 - **Skin was warm with good turgor.**
 - Cranial nerves II-XII intact
- **Objective Findings**
 - **Single 1 cm nodule** that is firm and skin colored.

Based on presentation of the patient, it is typical to assume a benign neoplasm such as a dermatofibroma.

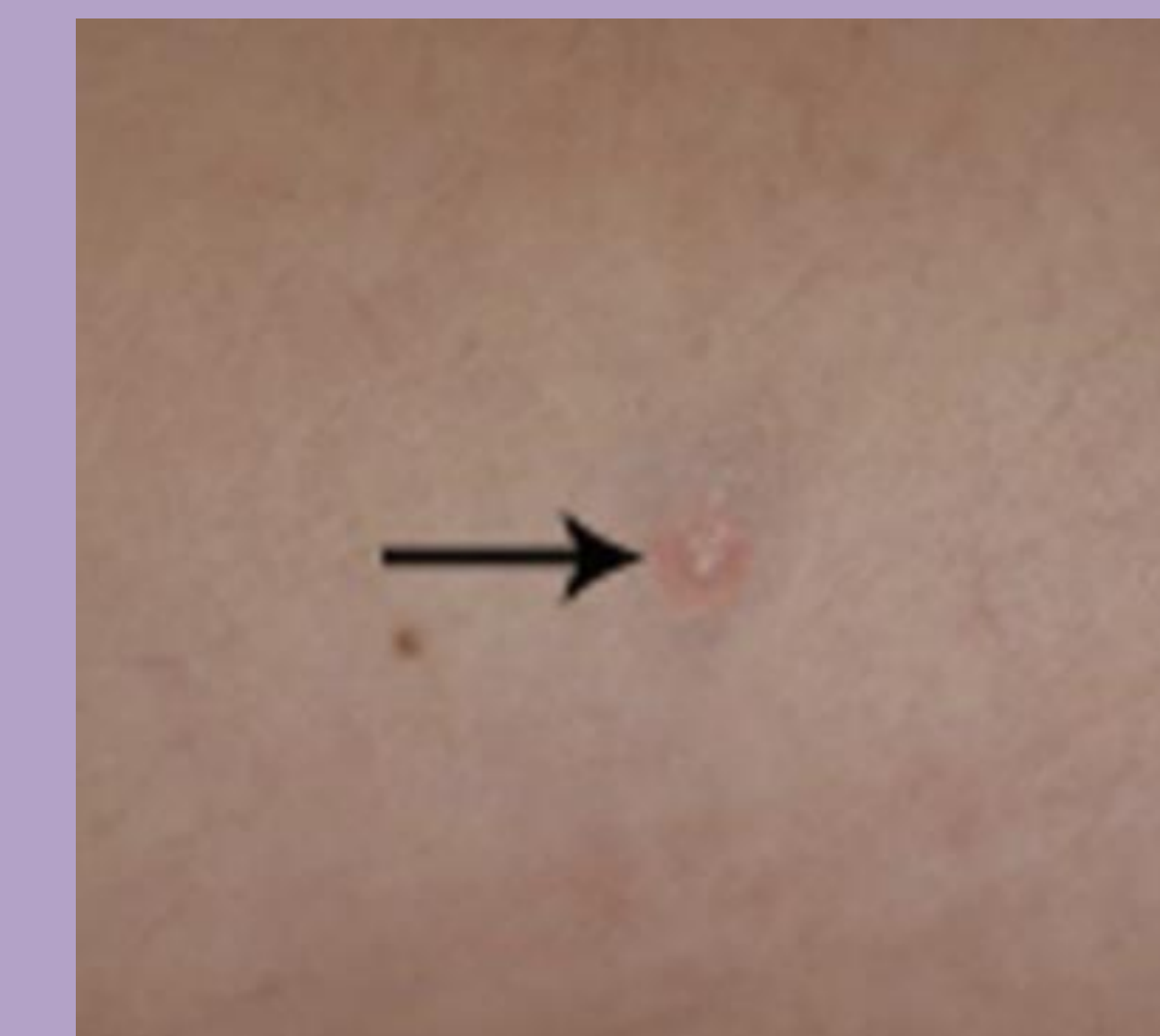


Image 1: Representation of spiradenoma⁴



Image 2: Representation of dermatofibroma⁵

RESULTS

- An excisional skin biopsy was performed and confirmed **eccrine spiradenoma** that was **negative for dysplasia or malignancy**.
- Although spiradenoma can be classified as **benign in the beginning** of their growth, they have a **quick rate of metastasis into malignancy** and should be treated surgically to prevent transformation.

DISCUSSION

- Spiradenomas are **challenging to distinguish** from the more common, benign subcutaneous tumors such as lipomas.
- **Lipomas** are frequent and typically **not treated** as they do not pose a threat to the individual, meanwhile, **spiradenomas** should be **immediately treated**.²
- However, taking a conservative approach toward dermatologic findings can lead to a **poor outcome** for patients.

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REFERENCES



CONCLUSION

Overlapping features of dermatologic neoplasms can **complicate definitive diagnosis** hence the importance of **maintaining a broad differential** and performing a **complete clinical examination**, dermoscopy and utilizing immunohistochemical methods to prevent misdiagnosis.



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