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# Dermatoscopy in polypoid basal-cell carcinoma: a rare histopathological variation

## *Dermatoscopia em carcinoma basocelular polipoide: uma variante histopatológica rara*

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### ABSTRACT

Polypoid basal-cell carcinoma (BCC) is a rare tumor, considered a clinical and histopathological variant of the nodular BCC, presenting broad exophytic or pedunculated base that connects to the surface of the skin and histopathologically displays the neoplastic aggregations restricted to the polypoid zone. We report a clinical case of BCC, with a bibliographical review, highlighting the clinical similarity of such malignant tumor with other benign and malignant tumors of the skin, besides the importance of dermoscopy for the diagnostic aid.

**Key words:** dermoscopy; basal-cell carcinoma; pathology.

### RESUMO

O carcinoma basocelular (CBC) polipoide é um tumor raro, considerado uma variante clínica e histopatológica do CBC nodular. Apresenta ampla base exofítica ou pedunculada que se conecta à superfície da pele e exibe, histopatologicamente, as agregações neoplásicas restritas à zona polipoide. Relatamos um caso clínico de CBC com revisão da literatura. Destacamos a similaridade clínica desse tumor maligno com outros tumores benignos e malignos da pele, além da importância da dermatoscopia para o auxílio diagnóstico.

**Unitermos:** dermatoscopia; carcinoma basocelular; patologia.

### RESUMEN

El carcinoma basocelular (CBC) polipoide es un tumor raro, considerado como una variante clínica e histopatológica del CBC nodular. Presenta amplia base exofítica o pedunculada que se une a la superficie de la piel y exhibe, histopatológicamente, las agregaciones neoplásicas restringidas a la zona polipoide. Reportamos un caso clínico de CBC con revisión de literatura. Destacamos la semejanza clínica de este tumor maligno con otros tumores benignos y malignos de la piel, allende la importancia de la dermoscopia para ayuda al diagnóstico.

**Palabras clave:** dermoscopia; carcinoma basocelular; patologia.

## CASE REPORT

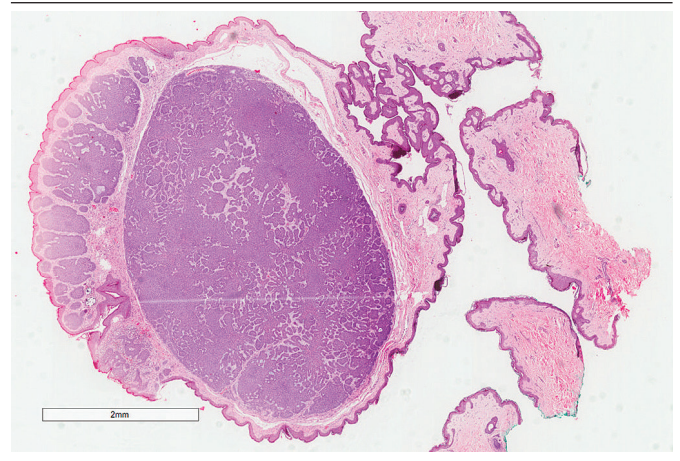
A 67-year-old female patient presented with a pedunculated normochromic lesion in the abdomen (**Figure 1**) of unknown evolution together with multiple benign lesions such as intradermal nevi, rubi angiomas and soft fibromas. Dermoscopy with polarized light surprisingly evidenced the presence of ovoid nests, focused arboriform vessels and chrysalis (**Figure 2**), findings highly suggestive of basal-cell carcinoma (BCC), and the lesion was excised. Histopathology revealed an asymmetric polypoid tumor containing aggregations of atypical basaloid cells present in a palisade restricted to the polypoid area, incorporated into the fibrinoid stroma and separated by focal fissures (**Figure 3**).



**FIGURE 1** – Pedunculated normochromic lesion in the abdomen



**FIGURE 2** – Lesion in dermoscopy



**FIGURE 3** – Polypoid BCC: histopathology (HE, 12×)

BCC: basal-cell carcinoma; HE: hematoxylin and eosin.

## DISCUSSION

The polypoid BCC was described in 1999 by Megahed<sup>(1)</sup>, considered a clinicopathological variant of nodular BCC, with a broad pedunculated base that connects to the surface of the skin and histologically exhibits pedunculated exophytic appearance and restriction of tumor aggregations to the polypoid zone. More prevalent in adult women, Japanese, located in the head; it is usually of large size, but not aggressive and non-infiltrative<sup>(2-4)</sup>. The **Table** shows cases of polypoid BCC reported in the English literature. This tumor is considered in the differential clinical diagnosis of benign and malignant adnexal tumors, intradermal melanocytic nevus, fibromas, Pinkus fibroepithelioma and amelanotic melanoma<sup>(5-8)</sup>. Although BCC is the most common skin cancer with a wide clinical and histological variation, not universally agreed, the polypoid BCC is a rare variant, with few published

**TABLE** – Cases of polypoid BCC reported in the English literature

Case	Sex	Age	Anatomic site	Lesion size
1	Female	87	Helix	1 × 0.8 cm
2	Female	76	Occipital scalp	2 × 1 cm
3	Female	52	Parietal scalp	1.5 × 1 cm
4	Male	20	Frontal scalp	1.3 × 0.8 cm
5	Female	56	Inguinal área	2.5 × 2 cm
6	Female	68	Forearm	5 × 2.5 cm
7	Male	64	Back	5 × 2 cm
8	Male	69	Buttock	1 × 1.5 cm
9	Female	33	Scalp	1.5 × 1.7 cm
9	Female	88	Buttock	3.5 × 2 cm
10	Male	28	Scalp	1.5 × 1 cm
11	Female	69	Lower leg	2 × 2 cm

BCC: basal-cell carcinoma.

cases. Some studies have not provided its histological description and none has described its dermoscopy<sup>(1, 5, 9-11)</sup>. We emphasize the importance of dermoscopy to differentiate such tumor from other benign lesions that can clinically lead to

errors in diagnosis and therapeutic management. The correct histopathological classification is necessary, provided that it alone allows such a diagnosis, as well as new dermatoscopic descriptions, for better elucidation of the tumor features.

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