

# Case Report: Eccrine Poroma of The Foot

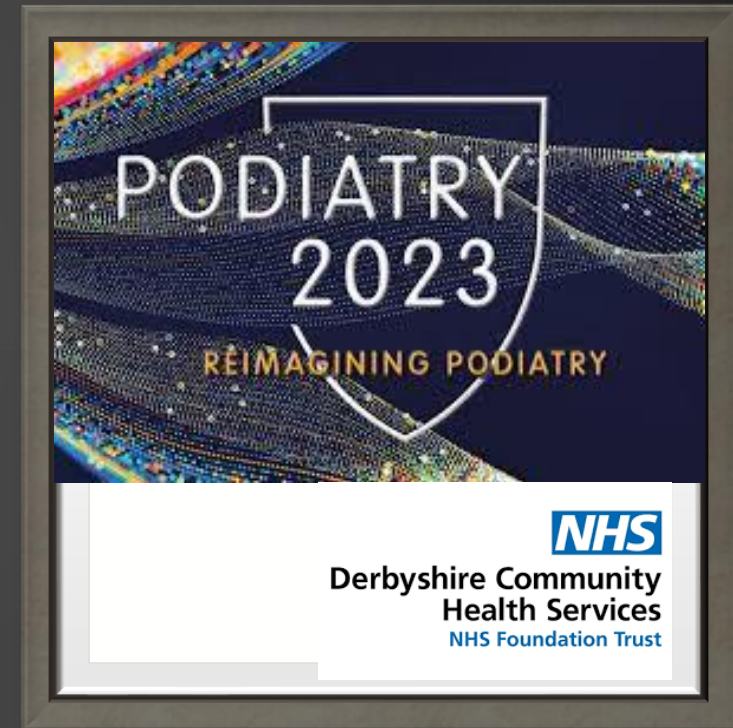
Faculty of Podiatric Surgery Conference  
November 2023

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Referred by  
community podiatry  
for surgical opinion  
on a verrucae

Description:

R plantar hallux verruca



# Patient history

- 69-year-old Caucasian male
- Non-smoker
- Medical history: Type II Diabetic (good glycaemic control), Hypertension (well controlled), hypercholesterolaemia
- Medication: Metformin, Ramipril, Atorvastatin, and Salicylic acid prescribed by General practitioner
- Allergies: Nil

**Examination  
(notes taken  
from EPR seen  
initially by staff  
podiatrist)**

- Skin lesion to right plantar hallux 6mm x 8mm. Hx 10yrs. Dx Verruca by GP and Podiatrists.
- No hx of trauma
- Surrounding skin macerated, granulation tissue to central lesion , likely due to salicylic acid application. Concerns re ulceration as diabetic?
- No clinical signs of infection.
- Mod pain 5/10 VRS
- Neurovascular status intact
- Not responding to caustic/conservative treatment
- Offered and declined dry needling
- Requesting surgical opinion

Follow up  
arranged with  
surgeon for  
surgical  
opinion

- Seen at follow up 4/52 by SpR
- Skin lesion: red raised fleshy nodule with smooth surface, macerated and vascular
- Increasing pain 7/10
- Clinical presentation at this stage resembled pyogenic granuloma
- Called in house dermatologist (on site) to cast an eye
- No immediate sinister concerns, happy for us to proceed
- Patient motivated towards surgical excision
- Listed for surgery

## Listed for Surgery

Full thickness elliptical excision of lesion



Primary closure with Nylon sutures



Sample sent to histopathology

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## Results

Histopathology reports: Eccrine Poroma

Cuboidal cells of eccrine lineage with monomorphous ovoid nuclei and a highly vascularized stroma.

# Eccrine Poroma

- A sweat gland tumour 1st reported by Goldman and Pinkus 1956
- Malignant variant 1st reported by Pinkus and Mehregan in 1963
- Benign neoplasm originating from the intra epidermal ductal portion of the sweat gland (Kang et al, 2011)
- Highly vascular and slow growing
- Varied clinical appearance ranging from erythematous flesh-coloured nodules, papular, verrucous, ulcerated, pedunculated plaques
- Malignant transformation to Eccrine Porocarcinoma is not uncommon and can be aggressive and involve bone and local lymph nodes carrying a 65% mortality rate. (Salih et al 2017, Snow et al 1992)
- Progression to malignancy mean of 8.5 years (Chang et al 2011)



# Taken from DermNet image library

<https://dermnetnz.org/topics/eccrine-poroma-images>

Eccrine poroma



Eccrine poroma



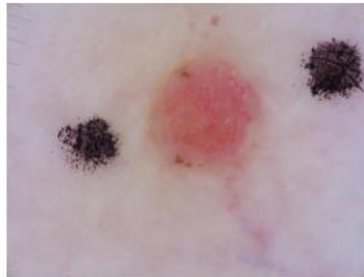
Eccrine poroma



Eccrine poroma



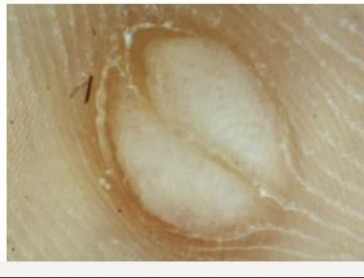
Eccrine poroma



Eccrine poroma

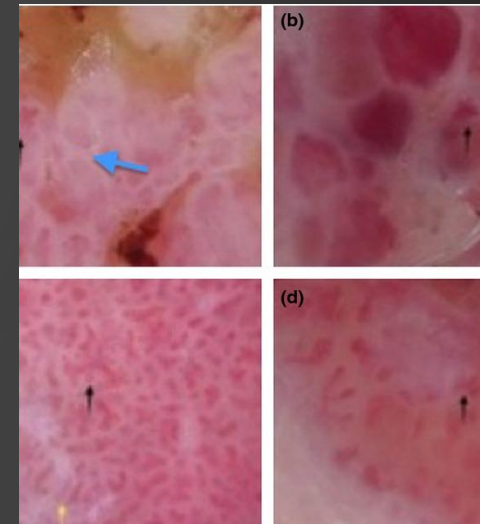


Dermoscopy view



# Investigations

- Skin Biopsy and Immunohistochemical staining
- Dermatoscopic evaluation : Flower and leaf vascular pattern



## Differential diagnosis

- Verrucae
  - Pyogenic granuloma
  - Squamous cell carcinoma
  - Basal cell carcinoma
  - Amelanotic melanoma
- 
- Red Flags for malignancy: increase in size, Bleeding, pain and irritation. (Robson et al 2001)

## Epidemiology and Risk

- Represents 10% of all sweat gland tumours and 1% of all skin lesion. (*Chessa et al 2019*)
- 20-50% transform into malignant Porocarcinomas (*Arbona et al, 2010*) (*Mishma et al 1969*)
- Most commonly develop on lower extremities 44%, trunk 24% head and neck 24% (*Wong et al, 2003*)
- Size varies few millimeters-2cm in width, can bleed and ulcerate from minimal trauma (*Wong et al 2003*)
- Prevalence in adults aged 60 -80 yrs. (*Gerber et al, 2008*)
- Equal incidence rates in both sexes. (*Sawaya eta al, 2014*)
- Recurrence rate is 20%and can indicate malignancy (*Marone et al, 2011*)
- Porocarcinomas with lymph node metastases the survival time for patients is estimated to be between 5 and 24 months (*Goel et al, 2003*) *poor prognosis*

# Aetiology

## Benign EP

- Unclear
- Trauma
- Radiation exposure
- Viral infection... Verruca?
- Sun damage

Lim et al 2019

# Treatment

- Simple excision and histopathology is the treatment of choice .
- Curative
- Rational:
  - Prone to deep soft tissue infection
  - Malignant transformation Porocarcinoma
- Wide local excision should be considered in cases of recurrence or malignancy
- Bologna et al, 2012

# Reflections on case



- Cascade effect : “Where by a process or theme once initiated continues to influence the onward path”
- That said the lesion may have initially presented of that of a verrucae then due to cellular differentiation transformed into tumour?? (Viral component?)
- Consider Incisional biopsy prior to surgical excision for a definitive diagnosis
- Direct referral to dermatology prior to any intervention for Dermoscopy.
- This case exemplifies the importance of a broad differential diagnosis, especially regarding soft-tissue masses of the lower extremity
- Obtain base line plain films to rule out bony involvement

Revision:  
ABCDE's of  
skin cancer

- ABCDE Rule

Asymmetry = none

Borders = regular well defined

Colour = no pigmentation

Diameter = > 6mm

Evolving = change in size  
shape or colour



Revise the  
acronyms  
for skin CA

- CUBED

C= Colour

U=Uncertain Diagnosis

B=Bleeding

E=enlargement of lesion  
despite Rx

D=Delay in healing

## RED FLAGS

- Recurrence
- Increasing in size#
- Irritation
- Bleeding
- Pain



## In summary

- Due to the multiple variations in clinical appearance, the detection of EP may be difficult and may lead to late diagnosis and poorer prognosis.
- Therefore, a high index of suspicion, early recognition and appropriate treatment at the initial presentation is paramount
- Fortunately, luck was on the patient's side and the tumour was caught on time prior to malignant transformation



**Patient went on to heal and tumour was completely eradicated.**

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- Thank You

# Aetiology

## Malignant EP

- Also linked to Autoimmune diseases and malignancies;
- Paget's disease
- Sarcoidosis
- Pernicious anaemia
- HIV
- Hodgkin's disease
- Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
- Nevus sebaceus
- Xeroderma pigmentosum

Sawaya et al, 2014