

CUTANEUS AND SUBCUTANEUS METASTASIS FROM HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA - REPORT OF THREE CASES

Janko Žujović¹, Ljiljana Vučković², Marinko Paunović³, Stevan Matić⁴

¹Center for Abdominal Surgery, Clinical Centre of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro

²University of Montenegro, Department of Pathology, Clinical Centre of Montenegro, Faculty of Medicine, Podgorica, Montenegro

³Center for Plastic and reconstructive Surgery, Clinical Centre of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro

⁴University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Pathology, Serbia

Contact: Ljiljana Vučković
Ljubljanska 1, 20000 Podgorica, Montenegro
E-mail: ljvuckovic@gmail.com

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the third most common cause of death from all cancers. Metastases of HCC in the skin are very rare and account for only 0.8% of all known cutaneous metastases.

We here present three cases of HCC with metastases in the skin and subcutaneous tissue, which was the first manifestation of the tumor. The diagnosis was based on the characteristics of histomorphological appearance and testing of the immuno-phenotype of tumor cells. In all three cases, within the metastatic tumors, a strong immunohistochemical ex-pression of AE1/AE3, EMA and HepPar1 was confirmed. In two cases, elevated serum levels of AFP were found.

In any diagnosis of cutaneous malignant tumor it is, first of all, important to distinguish any secondary deposits in the skin from the usual skin neo-proliferations. HepPar1 is an excellent marker of hepatocellular differentiation which significantly facilitates the diagnosis of metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma.

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