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

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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 expression 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.


Key words: Hepatocellular carcinoma, skin metastasis, initial presentation