

Answers to the Medical Quiz

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A1. Bowen's disease.

Definition

Bowen's disease (BD) or squamous cell carcinoma in-situ is a cutaneous malignancy first described by Bowen in 1912¹. It may affect any part of the skin both sun-exposed and non-sun-exposed, mucocutaneous junction and nail bed^{2,3}.

Clinical features

BD is characterized by being asymptomatic, slowly growing erythematous, scaly or crusted lesion, single or multiple, discrete and irregular in shape^{2,3}.

Differential diagnosis

١. Paget's disease
٢. Malignant melanoma
٣. Bowenoid papulosis
٤. Seborrheic keratosis

Histology

There is a full thickness dysplasia of the epidermis with mitotic figures at different levels^{3,4}. The histologic variants include psoriasiform, atrophic, verrucous-hyperkeratotic, irregular, pigmented, and pagetoid pattern^{3,4}.

Etiology

The etiology is multifactorial, which includes UV light, human papilloma virus and immunosuppression².

Treatment

١. Surgical excision
٢. Topical 5-fluorouracil
٣. Topical imiquimod
٤. Cryotherapy
٥. Curettage and electrocautery

- ٦. Radiotherapy
- ٧. Laser ablation (carbon dioxide, argon, neodymium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet)
- ٨. Photodynamic therapy (PDT)

Prognosis

Three percent to 8% may progress to invasive carcinoma if untreated⁵. Genital and neck lesions have 10% risk of progressing to invasive carcinoma⁶. The invasive carcinoma is aggressive and carries 3%-5% risk of metastasis⁵. Five-year recurrence rate after standard surgical excision is 19% and 6.3% after Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS)^{6,7}.

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