

Neurofibromas of the Nipple-Areolar Complex: An Unusual Localization

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Neurofibromatosis type I (NF1) is a common autosomal dominant genetic disorder with a high risk of cancers [1]. Neurofibromas are benign tumors seen during the NF1. There is just a few reported cases of breast's neurofibromas and the majority was on the nipple-areolar complex [2]. What about breast cancer in this case? We present a case of 56 years old women with a diagnosis of NF1. She presented with a 10 years history of bilateral, painless nipple skin tumors. There was no family history of NFI or breast cancer. Clinical examination found bilateral, polypoid, pigmented, and fleshy nodules on both nipple-areolar complexes (Figs. 1 and 2). Mammogram was normal and the patient is under surveillance. It has been suggested that breast's neurofibromas are more seen in female [3]. To the best of our knowledge, no cases of malignant transformation of a neurofibroma of the breast have been reported. However, a meta-analysis and many previous studies showed a high risk of breast cancer in patients with NF1 [1]. In addition to this, it has been reported that the NF1 gene is located near to the breast cancer predisposition gene (BRCA1) on chromosome 17q, which makes the association of breast cancer and neurofibromas theoretical so possible [3]. In conclusion, clinicians need to be aware of the high risk of breast cancer in patients with NF1, especially in patients with neurofibromas of the nipple-areolar complex.

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Fig. 1. Bilateral nipple's neurofibromas.



Fig. 2. Nipple's neurofibromas.

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