

# CUTANEOUS METASTASIS FROM HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA. REPORT OF A CASE WITH REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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## ABSTRACT

A case of solitary cutaneous metastasis in the genital area originating from liver cell carcinoma in an old woman is described. The rarity of the occurrence as regards both the primary source and the secondary site of metastatic deposits is stressed. The morphologic and immunohistochemical features which assisted in the correct diagnosis are also outlined, and a detailed review of the literature performed.

## KEY WORDS

cutaneous metastasis, hepatocellular carcinoma, vulva

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## INTRODUCTION

The incidence of the various tumors metastatic to the skin in men and women commensurate well with the frequency of occurrence of the primaries.

Liver cell carcinoma (LCC) is a relatively rare neoplasm accounting for 1.4 % of all internal malignancies in USA and for 0.9 % in U.K. (14). In Italy its relative incidence rate amounts to 5-20 cases/100.000 people/year ("intermediate incidence") (1a). Therefore, accordingly, metastatic deposits in other sites are rare as well.

LCC metastasizes either by blood stream or lymphatic channels capable of producing widespread metastases to many sites. Lungs, adrenal glands, bones, kidneys, pancreas, spleen, colon, lymph nodes, gallbladder, diaphragm, heart, and brain are on record (10-12, 15, 18). Skin metastases are

very unusual for LCC (9, 17).

We describe a case of solitary metastasis occurred in the genital area of an old female patient.

## CASE REPORT

An 80-year-old white woman was hospitalized (Department of General surgery, Ruvo di Puglia, Bari, Italy) complaining of pain and discomfort in the genital area due to the onset of a nodule which appeared 1 month prior to the admission. At physical examination the tumor nodule was located on her left labium major bordering the mucocutaneous edge, ulcerative and violaceous in appearances, and firm at palpation. The lesion was locally excised on the clinical suspicion of a primary skin tumor and the surgical specimen

