

Carcinoma of vulva occurs not only during old age: A Series of six cases

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Abstract

Squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva is predominantly a disease of postmenopausal women; it accounts for 5% of all female genital malignant neoplasms. Postoperative recovery in two among the five operated patient was late as their vulvar wound underwent dehiscence. Other three patients had an uneventful post operative period. Histopathology report showed Squamous cell carcinoma in all the cases. Lymphnodes was negative for malignant cells in all the cases.

Introduction

Squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva is predominantly a disease of postmenopausal women; it accounts for 5% of all female genital malignant neoplasm.¹ The mean age at diagnosis is about 65 years. However, 15% of patients who develop vulvar cancer do so before age of 40. Primary disease can appear anywhere on the vulva. Approximately 70% arise primarily on the labia, more commonly on labia majora.²

We had six cases of carcinoma of vulva from April 2009 to March 2011; all of them presented in late stage of disease and all six presented with wound in perineum and had history of chronic itching in perineum as shown in below.

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6
Age	38 years	40 years	34 years	39 years	40 years	63 years
Socio-ec	low	low	low	low	middle	low
c/c	growth	growth	growth	growth	growth	growth
Initial. comp	Itching	itching	itching	itching	itching	itching
husband	driver	Office worker	Driver died AIDS	Manpower	Ex army	Farmer Died
Mult .sex						
partner	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pap smear	-	-	-	-	CIN I	-
stage	II	II	II	II	II	
treatment	Radical	Radical	Radical	Radical	Radical	Refused
	Vu-lvectomy	Vu-lvectomy	Vu-lvectomy	Vu-lvectomy	Vu-lvectomy	-
Post op	uneventful	Wound D	uneventful	uneventful	Wound dehiscance	-
Margins	free	free	free	free	free	-
LN	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	-
Follow up	lost	fine	lost	On follow up	improving	Lost

Results

Five women were below 40 years of age, only one was 63 years old, who refused to undergo surgery. One of the patients was immuno-compromised (diagnosed HIV positive). Except for one all five patients underwent radical vulvectomy. Surprisingly in all six cases the vulval growth was more on left side.

Postoperative recovery in two among the five operated patient was late as their vulval wound underwent dehiscence. Other three patients had an uneventful post operative period. Histopathology report showed Squamous cell carcinoma in all the cases. Lymphnodes was negative for malignant cells in all the cases. Three of the operated patients are follow up while two lost follow up.

These are the photos of four of the cases in which the growth is clearly seen more on postero-left lateral side. Photos of one case were missed, while other's photo could not be taken as she refused operation and did not come for follow up. Both of them had also growth on left labia majora

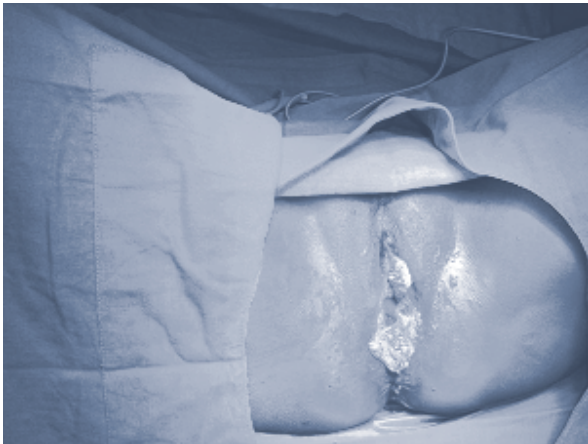
Case 1



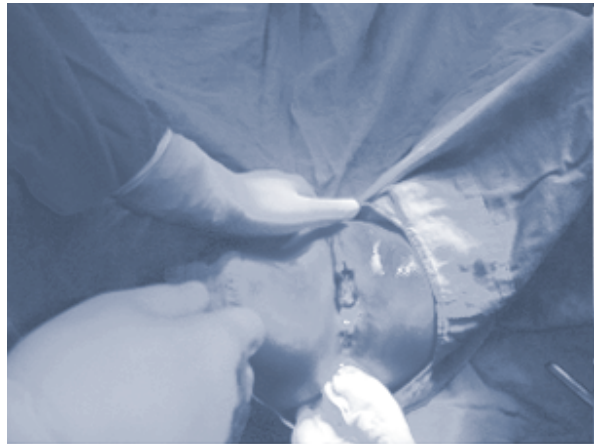
Case 2



Case 3



Case 3



Three of these Patients were operated in Vinayak Hospital one in Tribhuvan University and One in Hospital for advance medicine and surgery and the one who refused operation came to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital outpatient department.

Discussion

Vulvar cancer, with the exception of the rare sarcomas, appears most frequently in women between 65 and 75 years but 15 % of all vulvar cancers occur in women younger than 40 years, but among our cases all five except one were below 40 years.³

According to literature more than >50 percent of the patients present with chronic itching and similarly, in this series 100 % of patient had chronic purities. All the patients were from low socio-economic group.⁴ In all the six cases the growth was more on postero left lateral side of labia majora. According to the literature common site is labia majora but as in these patients it was visible more on left side.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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