

The Use of Reflectance Confocal Microscopy in the Management of a Rare Cutaneous Tumor (Fibroepithelioma of Pinkus) †

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Abstract: Fibroepithelioma of Pinkus (FeP) is considered a subtype of basal cell carcinoma with a distinct growth pattern and represents a challenge for clinicians in the absence of precise diagnostic methods. Clinically, the lesion is nonspecific, appearing as a plaque or polypoid lesion, commonly found on the trunk or extremities, mimicking benign skin lesions. Reflectance confocal microscopy (RCM) is a non-invasive diagnostic technique that provides in vivo images of the epidermis and the underlying papillary dermis with a near-cellular resolution, reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies. We report the case of a mid-age female patient who presented to the dermatology clinic with a round, 5 mm, pink lesion on her forehead that had been growing for a year. Some lesions are difficult to differentiate based on clinical features alone, necessitating additional investigations. The location of skin lesions impacts the precision diagnostic methods used. Due to the location of the lesions on the forehead, RCM was chosen over a traditional biopsy in this case. RCM evaluation showed a distinct structure at the dermo-epidermal junction, characterized by a fenestrated pattern that relates well to the histopathology features of FeP. RCM is a modern diagnostic imaging method that allows for a non-invasive and quick precision diagnosis. This is very important for the prompt initiation of specialized treatment, especially in managing malignant skin tumors.

Keywords: reflectance confocal microscopy; fibroepithelioma of Pinkus; basal cell carcinoma; skin cancer.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.