Case Series of Common Skin Lesions Encountered in Elderly Cadavers: A Dermatopathology Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Due to previous research regarding medical students using cadavers as practice for gaining skills in dermatopathology, medical students at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in South Georgia were inspired to analyze common skin lesions found on the cadavers that were provided for anatomy and histological diagnosis that were later confirmed or denied by a pathologist. This research was pursued prior to dermatology education that was provided at a later time during their second year of didactic.

INTRODUCTION

Gaining hands-on experience in both dermatology and pathology is a common barrier that prevents first and second-year medical students from refining skills that are not later taught during residency. Second-year Osteopathic Medical Students at PCOM South Georgia, aspiring to specialize in dermatopathology, pathology and dermatology, initiated a plan to perform an analysis on common skin lesions to refine their diagnosis skills in both clinical and histology presentation. The goal of this study was to learn gross differential diagnostic skills based on clinical findings as well as analyze histopathology slides to diagnose common skin lesions encountered in elderly cadavers. Medical students performed multiple shave biopsies on all abnormal skin lesions observed from nine cadavers used for the first year medical students gross anatomy lab during the year 2022-2023. Histopathology slides, though initially viewed by medical students, were later confirmed by a pathologist. The histopathology findings of the common dermatological conditions will be discussed and presented as well as the analysis on the accuracy of the medical students diagnoses.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Nine cadavers used for the first year medical students gross anatomy lab during the year 2022-2023. Shave biopsies were performed on all abnormal skin lesions observed from nine cadavers used for the first year medical students gross anatomy lab during the year 2022-2023. Histopathology slides, though initially viewed by medical students, were later confirmed by a pathologist. The histopathology findings of the common dermatological conditions will be discussed and presented as well as the analysis on the accuracy of the medical students diagnoses.

RESULTS

A total of 25 samples were collected from 9 cadavers. The most commonly encountered lesion was seborrheic keratosis (56%), actinic keratosis (20%) and intradermal nevus (12%). Three sample lesions (12%) showed an intradermal nevus. Two sample lesions (9%) from the same cadaver were a milium and one lesion (4%) from another cadaver was an epidermal inclusion cyst.

CONCLUSION

Common dermatological lesions were identified among the 9 cadavers used for analysis. This provided opportunities to develop and refine skills in identifying common lesions grossly and histopathologically. A further increase in sample size is needed to gain exposure to a larger variety of lesions and to identify common dermatological lesions grossly based on differing race, age, and gender.

REFERENCES


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