

Management of an Advanced Case of Basal Cell Carcinoma in a Patient with Albinism - Considerations for Working in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

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INTRODUCTION

Oculocutaneous albinism (OCA) results in hypopigmentation due to impaired melanin biosynthesis and increases the risk of skin cancers, notably basal cell carcinomas (BCCs). Recent studies indicate a rising incidence of BCC in individuals with OCA. Patients in Low-and Middle-Income countries with poor resources are at a disadvantage due to a lack of resources but carry a higher burden of OCA.

CASE PRESENTATION

A 20-year-old female with Type 2 OCA from Uganda presented with a 1-year history of a left cheek wound that had progressively enlarged, discharged, and caused mild pain. Examination revealed multiple ulcerated plaques with necrotic centers and elevated borders on her face, neck, and elbows, alongside skin-colored nodules. A punch biopsy confirmed BCC with eccrine differentiation. Following a treatment regimen involving excision, laser therapy, 5-fluorouracil and mupirocin ointment

DISCUSSION

The patient's advanced BCCs were exacerbated by delayed presentation, lack of access to specialized care, and socioeconomic constraints. Her condition was worsened by the absence of prior dermatologic and ophthalmologic evaluations. This case highlights the critical need for early detection and preventive strategies for skin cancer in high-risk populations such as those with albinism, especially in low-resource settings. Improved access to specialized care and preventive measures are essential to address these challenges.



Figure 1. Initial presentation to dermatology clinic. Ulcerated lesions to the left zygomatic region of the face, right upper forehead, right medial and lateral cheek and right superior lateral neck.



Figure 2: Status-post excision of left zygomatic BCC tumor and flap reconstruction



Figure 3: Six weeks after with 5-Fluorouracil application surgery

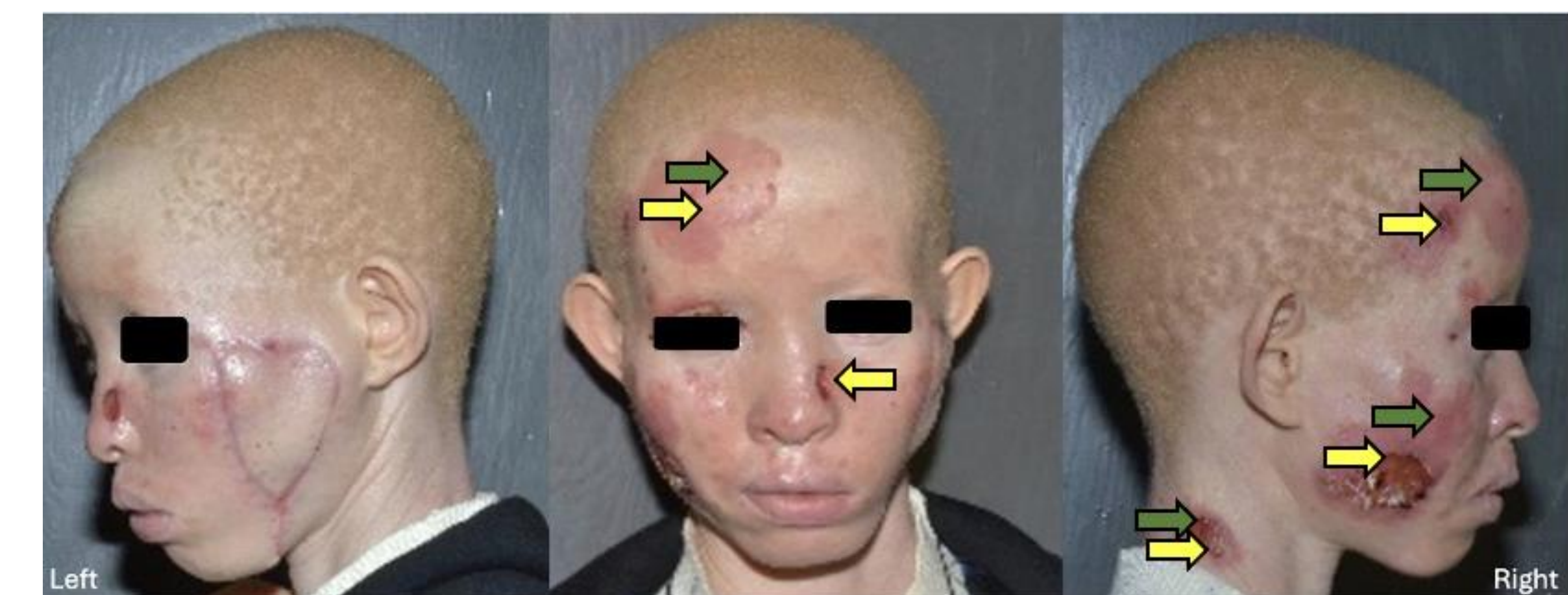


Figure 4: Eight weeks post-surgery following carbon dioxide ablation laser therapy, 5-Fluorouracil application (blue arrows) and application of mupirocin ointment (yellow arrows)

1. References

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