

Digital Basal Cell Carcinoma

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A 63-year-old man presented with a 3-year history of a painful, progressively enlarging lesion on his right middle finger. On physical examination, there was a 12-mm erythematous plaque on the right middle finger with two 4-mm bluish-black nodules of moderate firmness and overlying crust (Fig. 1). The lesion was surgically excised. Histopathological examination of the specimen showed tumor nodules composed of basaloid cells exhibiting peripheral palisading, lacking conspicuous

retraction clefts. Melanin granules were identified within the tumor nests (Fig. 2). A diagnosis of nodular basal cell carcinoma was made. Although basal cell carcinoma is the most common cutaneous malignancy, digital involvement is relatively uncommon due to the lack of sebaceous structures^[1,2]. The differential diagnosis of digital basal cell carcinoma includes melanocytic tumors, squamous cell carcinoma, Bowen disease, and Merkel cell carcinoma; consequently, biopsy remains



Figure 1: Two bluish-black nodules overlying erythema on the right middle finger.

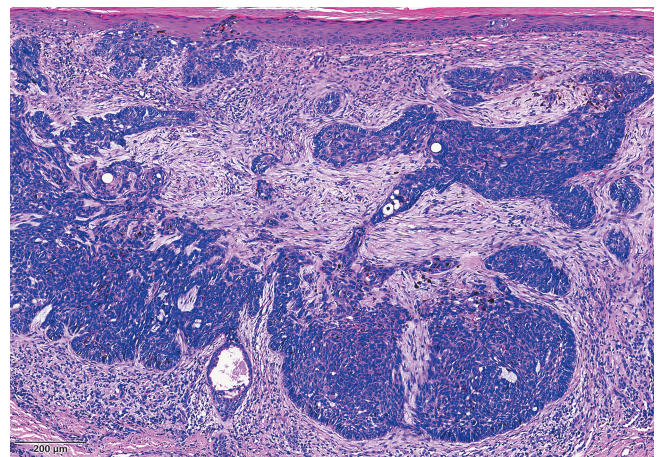


Figure 2: Histopathological findings revealed basaloid cells arranged in a peripheral palisading pattern (hematoxylin-eosin stain, scale bar: 200 μm).

Received: 22 April 2026; **Accepted:** 26 May 2026

DOI: 10.2738/SKIN.2026.0018

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the gold standard when clinical diagnosis is unclear. Noninvasive imaging modalities such as dermoscopy and reflective confocal microscopy can further refine the differential diagnosis. Basal cell carcinoma should therefore be maintained in the differential diagnosis of atypical digital lesions.

Author contributions

Yeqi Guo: conceptualization, data curation, investigation, methodology, visualization, writing—original draft, and writing—review & editing. Jianmin Chang: conceptualization, resources, supervision, validation, writing—original draft, and writing—review & editing.

Acknowledgements

We express our sincere gratitude to the editor and reviewers for their constructive comments and to the journal and its publisher for their professional support.

Ethics statement

Ethical approval was not required for this single-case report per the institutional review board (IRB) guidelines of Beijing Hospital, National Center of Gerontology, Institute of Geriatric Medicine, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, as no experimental interventions were performed and only de-identified patient data were used. This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Patient consent statement

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for the publication of this case report and accompanying images.

Data availability statement

No datasets were generated or analyzed for this work.

Conflicts of interest

Jianmin Chang serves as a member of the Editorial Board of this journal. He was not involved in the editorial review or decision-making process for this manuscript. All editorial decisions were made independently by other members of the Editorial Board who have no conflicts of interest.

AI statement

The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence (AI) or AI-assisted technologies were used in the preparation, analysis, or writing of this manuscript.

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