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ABSTRACTS

POSTER

Aggressive cutaneous angiosarcoma after breast conserving treatment for bilateral breast cancers in a BRCA-1 carrier

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Aims: Report of aggressive bilateral cutaneous angiosarcomas developing on conserved breasts after treatment for bilateral breast cancers in a BRCA-1 carrier.

Methods: A case of angiosarcoma after breast-conserving treatment for metachronous bilateral breast cancers is reported and discussed with reference to the literature regarding this association.

Results: A female was diagnosed with right breast cancer in 1998 at age 48 and left breast cancer in 2001 at age 51. Treatment for both tumours was breast-conserving surgery and adjuvant radiotherapy, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. Genetic testing confirmed carriage of BRCA-1. In 2005 a blemish and skin nodules developed in the left radiotherapy field with a blemish in the right radiotherapy field. Biopsies demonstrated bilateral angiosarcomas. Staging did not reveal metastases. The affected skin and both conserved breasts were removed by mastectomies. Histology showed completely excised multifocal angiosarcomas on both breasts. 4 months later angiosarcoma recurred on the right side and was treated with a wide local scar excision. Histology again confirmed complete excision. 3 months later a further recurrence of angiosarcoma on the chest wall was treated with palliative radiotherapy.

Conclusions: BRCA-1 carriage may enhance the risk of radiation-induced second cancers. Due to the small numbers of BRCA-1 carriers so far identified and the rarity of radiation-induced angiosarcoma it will be difficult to prove such an association. However mastectomy rather than breast-conservation therapy plus radiotherapy may be advisable in known BRCA-1 gene carriers. A national database of such mutation carriers is urgently needed to try and establish such an association.