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The immunohistochemical profile of hyperplastic melanocytes in Primary Acquired Melanosis. G.S. Lima , Y. Zhang , A.L. Caissie , A.M. Figueiredo , C.P. Correia , M.N. Burnier Jr. The Henry C. Witelson Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Purpose: Primary acquired melanosis (PAM) is a conjunctival pre-cancerous lesion and the diagnosis of malignant transformation can not be established based on clinical criteria. When large areas of conjunctiva are involved multiple biopsies should be obtained. The objective of this study is to determine if cytokeratin and actin should be included in the immunohistochemical profile of hyperplastic melanocytes that are characteristic of PAM. Methods: Nine patients with clinical and pathological diagnosis of PAM were studied. Nine formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded specimens of PAM were retrieved from the files of the Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory and Registry, McGill University. The clinical data included age, gender and location of the tumor. The histopathological features included presence and degree of melanocytic hyperplasia and atypia. The 9 histopathological sections were immunostained for HMB-45, S-100 protein, vimentin, cytokeratin and actin. The sections, that were immunostained for cytokeratin, underwent a bleaching with 3% H₂O₂ for 18 hours. Results: Seven females (77.7%) and 2 males (22.2%), with the mean age of 65.7 years (SD 14.4), ranging from 35 to 85 years old were included. Histopathologically, 4 cases (44.4%) had atypia and 5 cases (55.5%) had no atypia. The Immunohistochemical profile showed positivity for vimentin in 7 cases (77.7%), HMB-45 in 6 cases (66.6%), S-100 protein in 2 cases (22.2%). Concerning the new markers, cytokeratin and actin were positive in 3 cases (33.3%). Two cases of PAM with atypia displayed co-expression of cytokeratin and actin. Conclusions: The immune-expression of actin and cytokeratin can be found in cases of PAM. The use of overnight bleaching after the immune-stain with those markers allows a reliable interpretation of the results. This small number of cases showed a correlation between atypia and co-expression of actin and cytokeratin. Further studies with a large patient population should be performed. CR:None