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Acute Marjolin's Ulcer With Previous Negative Biopsy – A Case Study*Xu Sheng, Yeo Eng Meng Nicholas, Wong Kien Yee Michael*

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Aims: Marjolin's ulcer is a rare and often forgotten diagnosis. In majority of the literatures, a long latency period between 11 to 75 years have been described. The authors aim to present an unusual acute presentation of Marjolin's ulcer to highlight the need for high degree of clinical suspicion when reviewing patient with chronic wounds.

Methodology: The authors present an unusual case of a patient who developed a Marjolin's ulcer despite having a negative biopsy 8 months prior.

Result: The patient is an 87-years old Chinese male who first developed a traumatic ulcer over his 3rd and 4th toe web-space 3 years ago from persistent scratching. Patient underwent biopsy in August 2017 by dermatology and histology was epidermal acanthosis with no evidence of dysplasia or malignancy.

Patient was next seen in Orthopaedic Surgery in May 2018 for a sudden increase in the size of ulceration over 5 months associated with pain. On examination there was a large fungating ulcer over his 3rd and 4th interdigital space on the plantar aspect measuring about 3.2cm x 2cm.

Patient underwent re-biopsy on 31st May 2018 and histology was reported as features consistent with well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. Patient subsequently underwent right forefoot amputation on 19th June 2018. Final histology report was extensive in-situ squamous cell carcinoma with no evidence of co-existing melanoma or basal cell carcinoma.

Conclusion: Marjolin's ulcer is a rare and often forgotten diagnosis that can present in any medical speciality. Clinicians need to have a high degree of suspicion when encountered with nonhealing wound, acute or chronic. Patients should be counselled on the importance of biopsy which is often a cheap and minimally invasive procedure that can allow accurate histological diagnosis. Even with negative biopsy, patients should still be followed up and clinicians should not hesitate to re-biopsy if the suspicion arises.