ISOLATED INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA OF THE NIPPLE-AREOLAR COMPLEX: A RARE OCCURRENCE YET TO BE REPORTED IN CURRENT LITERATURE

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Invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) of the nipple-areolar complex is exceedingly rare, and we report one case of this in a lady who presented with a history of bloody nipple discharge and Pagetoid changes of the nipple. She underwent a right simple mastectomy and axillary clearance and was found to have isolated invasive ductal carcinoma within the nipple-areolar complex, with only a focal Pagetoid involvement of the nipple. We found high grade ductal carcinoma in situ in the breast. This does not obey the pathogenesis of Paget’s disease of the breast, where the in-situ disease of the skin is discontinuous with the underlying malignancy. In the current literature, there are case series that describe the involvement of the nipple-areolar complex in breast cancer but hardly any documentation on isolated nipple invasive ductal carcinoma. Rare cases of squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma of the nipple areolar complex have been reported. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case of invasive cancer solely involving the nipple-areolar complex. This is a rare condition that deserves further study as the pathophysiology of IDC of the nipple may be different from other common nipple-areolar conditions such as Paget’s disease.