cens with flammability and toxic effects, and new topical treatments include benzyl alcohol, spinosad, and ivermectin. All of these topical treatments require thorough washing of the hair after application and can have adverse effects such as irritant and contact dermatitis if left in place; rare toxic effects also has been reported with application. Oral ivermectin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole are parenteral agents that have been reported to be efficacious in widespread or resistant infestations. Nonpesticidal therapies also include fine-tooth combing; topical application of petrolatum jelly, mayonnaise, or olive oil; meticulous manual removal; or shaving of the head.

We present a challenging clinical case in an immuno-suppressed host complicated by our patient’s extensive infestation involving his dreadlocks. Traditional topical therapies were not possible without washing because of concerns for topical allergic or irritant dermatitis, and physical methods such as combing out the nits and cutting the hair were refused by the patient. Oral medications were considered but also refused. The Lice Lifters mass of basaloid cells with dense areas of pigment-marked by its firm consistency, translucence, and occasional surface ulceration. We present 2 cases of pigmented basal cell carcinoma in a fair skinned patient with blue eyes.

**Report of Cases**

**Patient 1 (Figure, A)** is a 75-year-old woman with type I skin, blue eyes, and a history of BCC. She presented with a new pink-brown papule on the back. A biopsy specimen showed masses of basaloid cells within a fibrocellular stroma. Pigment was found both within the tumor cells and in melanosomes (Figure, B).

**Patient 2** is a 77-year-old man with type I skin and blue eyes and no history of melanoma or nonmelanoma skin cancer. He presented with a brown and pink plaque on the posterior shoulder (Figure, C). A biopsy specimen showed masses of basaloid cells with dense areas of pigment (Figure, D).

**Discussion**

Pigmented BCC has been very well documented in patients with darker eyes and skin; however, the number of cases reported in lighter-skinned individuals, including those with type I skin, is limited. Tan et al in 2008 proposed that the predilection for African American, Hispanic, and Asian populations could be owing to the ability to tan along with the greater melanogenic capacity of dark-haired patients. In a study by Bart and Schnall in 1973, only 10% of patients with pigmented BCC had light brown eyes, while the eyes of the remaining 90% were dark brown. There were no cases reported in other eye colors. Rossiello and colleagues in 2006 described a case of pigmented BCC in a 29-year-old white woman. There have been few cases of pigmented BCC reported in white patients with blue eyes, further supporting an association with darker skin and eye color. Differentiating pigmented BCC from melanoma or atypical melanocytic nevi is essential; in our case, the diagnosis was determined by characteristic histologic findings of benign proliferation of melanocytes throughout the basaloid tumor islands and numerous pigment-laden melanophages within the fibrocellular tumor stroma. Despite the fact that only 7% of BCCs are pigmented, and they are uncommon in fair-skinned populations, pigmented BCC should be included in the differential diagnosis of atypical pigmented lesions in patients with lighter skin or eyes.

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**Lara Wine-Lee, MD, PhD**

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**Pigmented Basal Cell Carcinoma: Uncommon Presentation in Blue-Eyed Patients**

While other subtypes of basal cell carcinoma (BCC) primarily affect individuals with light eyes and hair, fair complexion, and an inability to tan, pigmented BCC has a predilection for darker-skinned populations with dark brown eyes. Commonly mistaken as melanoma because of its often dark and irregular pigmentation, pigmented BCC is marked by its firm consistency, translucence, and occasional surface ulceration. We present 2 cases of pigmented basal cell carcinoma in a fair skinned patient with blue eyes.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.


Figure. Photographs Illustrative of the Present Cases

A, Clinical photograph of patient 1 showing blue eyes and fair complexion. B, Histopathologic specimen from patient 1 showing basaloid proliferation with prominent areas of pigmentation consistent with pigmented basal cell carcinoma (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification ×200). C, Pigmented plaque on the back of patient 2. D, Histopathologic specimen from patient 2 is consistent with a pigmented basal cell carcinoma (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification ×200).