LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transverse-Section Histology for Parallel-Ridge Pattern

Sección histológica horizontal para el patrón de la cresta

To the Editor:

In a recent issue of Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas Blázquez et al raise the issue on the opportunity to analyse skin biopsies of acral pigmented lesions featuring a parallel-ridge pattern (PRP) after cutting them perpendicularly to the skin markings so that cristae profundae intermediae are included for sure in the tissue section. The authors conclude that “diagnosis of some suspect pigmented lesions is rendered impossible by the low cellularity of the sample. In such cases, the use of molecular biology techniques would be advisable to detect chromosomal abnormalities associated with acrolentiginous melanoma (...).”

I wish to point out that transverse-section histology is a cheap and reliable tool to perform dermoscopic-histologic correlations of acral pigmented lesions as planes of tissue sectioning are parallel to the skin surface and therefore to dermoscopic visualization of lesions. First, transverse-section histology allows a quick, low-magnification scan of the whole excised specimen. Then, higher magnification and analysis of deeper sections of key or “suspicious” dermoscopic areas achieve an accurate and unambiguous localization of melanoma vs nevus. Arch Dermatol. 2008;144:1618-20.


D. Torchia a, b

a Department of Experimental Pathology & Oncology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy
b Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA

E-mail adress: dtorchia@med.miami.edu

References