

Patologija vulve/izabrane teme

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Apstrakt

Koža vulve se razlikuje od kože drugih regija po različitoj bakterijskoj flori i uslovima trenta. Dermatološke bolesti vulvarne kože i mukozne se dele u dve grupe. Prvu grupu čine dermatoze slične ekstravulvarnim dermatozama, a drugu čine dermatoze koje zahvataju predominantno vulvarnu regiju. Specifične dermatoze vulve su kontaktni dermatitis, lichen planus, lichen sclerosus. Infektivne bolesti vulve se mogu preneti direktnim kontaktom. Prepoznavanje tipičnih mikroskopskih karakteristika pomaze u dijagnostici scabiesa, herpes virusne infekcije i molluscum contagiosuma. Humani papilloma virusi (HPV) su epitheliotropni virusi i mogu uzrokovati premalignu i malignu transformaciju epitelnih ćelija. Sledeći kriterijumi kao što su virusne promene, klinički parametri i mikroskopski nalaz upućuju na postojanje dva puta u karcinogenezi skvamoznog karcinoma vulve i to HPV-zavisni put udružen sa Vulvarnom intraepitelialnom neoplazijom/VIN/ klasičnog tipa i ne-HPV sa VIN diferentovanog (simlex) tipa često udruženim sa lichen sclerosusom i/ili vulvarnom hiperplazijom. Invazivni planocelularni karcinom je najčešći karcinom vulve. Procena prognostičkih faktora je neophodna komponenta patohistološkog izveštaja. Visoki gradus tumora, vaskularna invazija, veće dimenzije tumora i dubina invazije zaslužuju imunohistohemijsku analizu limfnih čvorova radi nalazenja metastatskih ćelija karcinoma. Extramamarna Pagetova bolest je retka. Može biti primarnog kožnog porekla ili udružena sa nekožnim tumorima gastrointestinalnog ili porekla mokraćne bešike. Imunohistohemijska analiza je važna za određivanje primarnog porekla tumora.

Ključne reči: vulve, dermatoze, herpes virus, šuga, Molluscum contagiosum, humanim papiloma virusima (HPV), Vulvar intraepitelna neoplazija / VIN, planocelularni karcinom, extramamarna Pagets bolesti

Vulvar Pathology - Selected Topics

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Abstract

Skin of the vulva differs from the other sites from the different bacterial and friction features. Dermatologic diseases of vulvar skin and mucosa can be divided in two groups. The first includes dermatoses similar extravulvar sites, and second includes dermatoses affected predominantly vulvar region. Specific dermatoses of vulva are contact dermatitis, seborrhoeic dermatitis, lichen planus, lichen sclerosus. Infectious diseases of vulva can be transmitted by direct contact. Recognition of typical microscopic findings can help for diagnosis of scabies, herpes virus, molluscum contagiosum diseases of vulva. Human papilloma viruses (HPV) are epitheliotropic viruses and cause premalignant and malignant transformation of epithelial cells. According to criteria like viral associated changes, clinical parameters, microscopic features there are two pathways in carcinogenesis squamous cell carcinoma HPV-related pathway associated with Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia/VIN of the classic type, and the non-HPV related with VIN of the differentiated (simlex) type frequently associated with lichen sclerosus and/or vulvar hyperplasia. Invasive squamous carcinoma is the most common carcinoma of vulva. Prognostic factors like stage, extracapsular nodal spread, infiltrative margins, vascular invasion, degree of differentiation, status of adjacent skin, stromal response, p53 overexpression are necessary for report. High tumor grade, capillary lymphatics invasion, bigger tumor size and depth invasion deserve immunohistochemical analysis lymph nodes for metastatic cells of carcinoma. Extramammary Paget's disease is rare neoplasm. Paget's disease can be primary cutaneous vulvar disease, or associated with noncutaneous carcinoma gastrointestinal origin or bladder carcinoma. Immunohistochemical analysis is very helpful to determine primary origin.

Key words: vulva, dermatoses, herpes virus, scabies, molluscum contagiosum, Human papilloma viruses (HPV), Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia/VIN, squamous carcinoma, extramammary Pagets disease

Introduction

Skin of the vulva differs from the other sites from the different bacterial and friction features. Dermatologic diseases of vulvar skin and mucosa can be divided in two groups. The first includes dermatoses similar extra-vulvar sites, and second includes dermatoses affected predominantly vulvar region¹.

Specific dermatoses of vulva

Contact dermatitis

Agents like hygienic, synthetic materials may cause inflammatory response of the squamous epithelium. Histologic features are not specific and include intracellular and intercellular edema of squamous epithelium, with edema of dermis and dilatation of blood vessels. Inflammatory infiltration consists lymphocytes and histiocytes, and eosinophiles may be or not prominent.

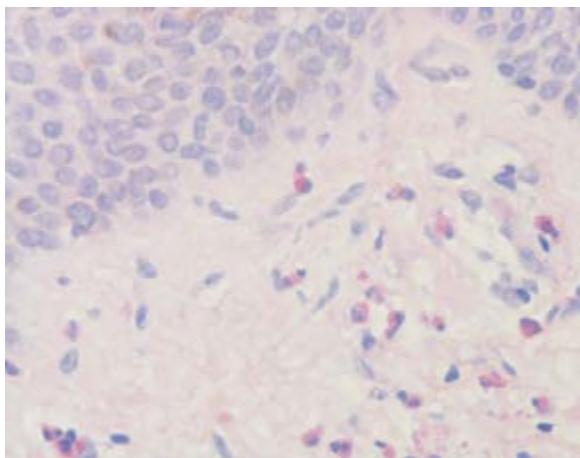


Figure 1. Dermal inflammatory infiltration (HEx40)

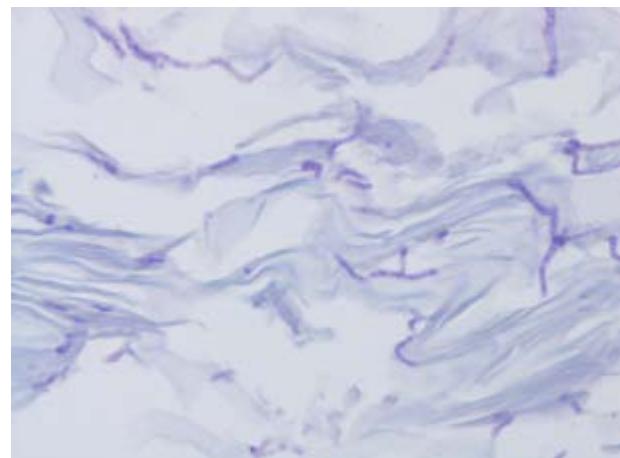


Figure 2. Fungal organisms on surface vulvar skin (PASx40)

Seborrhoic dermatitis

Vulvar eruptions in obese women with friction cause, exematous appearance can have nonspecific histologic changes. Microscopic features may be akantosis, spongiosis and parakeratosis, with elongation of rete pegs of epidermis. Mild chronic dermal inflammation persists, and finding fungal and other infectious agents are according for the diagnosis seborrhoic dermatitis².

Psoriasis

Vulvar psoriasis may be part of generalized disease or affect vulvar region. Eruptions have sharp demarcated areas with red surface covered with white plaques. The clinical course can be persistent with progress in chronic and generalized disease, or have remission. Histologic findings are hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis, uniform elongation of rete pegs, lack of granular layer, thinning of stratum malpighii. Munro microabscesses are accumulations of neutrophils in the epidermis. Dermal capillaries are dilated, and dermis is with edema, with minimal inflammatory cells¹.

Lichen planus

Lichen planus may present like vulvar white plaques or lines with pruritus in the women after 30 years. It can be localized or generalized and can spontaneous regress with exacerbations. Histologic features this interface dermatitis are akantosis, parakeratosis, hypekeratosis and hypergranulosis with elongation of rete pegs. Band-like lymphocytic infiltration next the epidermis is typically present and infiltrate extend in epidermis basal cells. Liquefaction degeneration of basal epithelial cells is present. Cytoid bodies present degenerated keratinocytes and dysceratotic cells, and they are localized in the epidermis or superficial dermis.

Lichen sclerosus (et atrophicus)

Lichen sclerosus affected predominantly postmenopausal women, but young women may be affected. Disease can affect any or all areas of vulva, and may extend perianal skin, or extragenital sites (neck, extremities). Microscopic features can vary related to stage of disease. In the advanced the epithelium is atrophic, hyperkeratotic in some cases, with flattened rete pegs. In basal layers of epidermis are present edema and hydropic degeneration what sometimes separate basal cells from the basement membrane in some cases. Infiltration of lymphocytes in the basal and parabasal layers are visible. Homogenisation, edema, collagenisation of the dermis are in association with mild chronic inflammation^{3,4}.

Infectious disease of vulva- selected topics***Scabies***

Infestation of scabies is related with sexual contact. Pruritic disease cause excoriation, secondary infection. Microscopic features are epidermal irregular acanthosis, focal spongiosis, psoriasiform epidermal hyperplasia with exoskeleton on the lower stratum corneum, dermal inflammation with perivascular infiltrate of lymphocytes and variable numbers of eosinophils⁵.

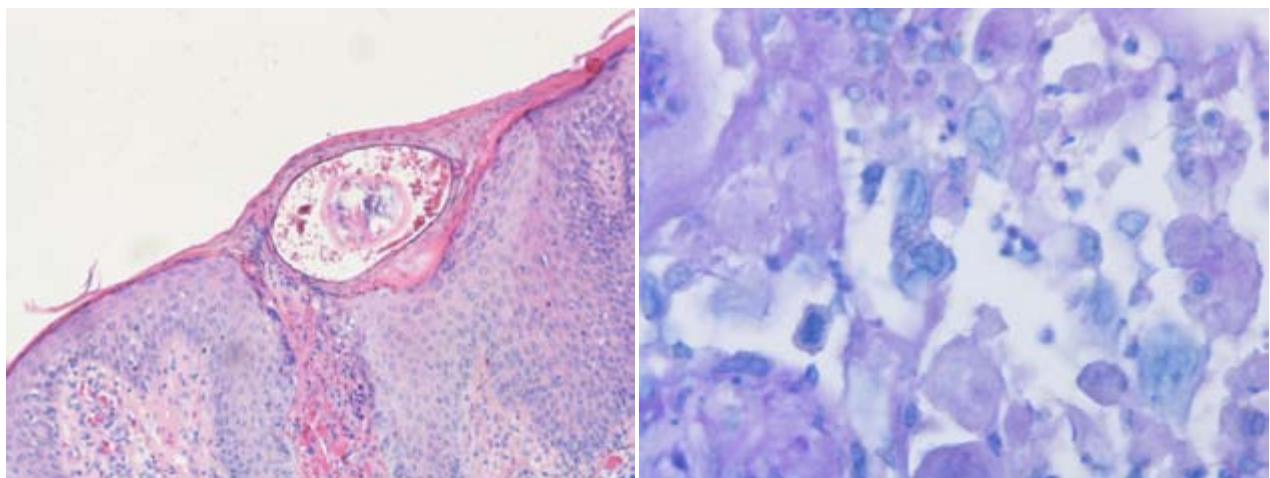


Figure 3. Exoskeleton of scabies on the surface of vulvar skin(HEx10)

Figure 4. Vulvar herpes simplex (PASx40)

Herpesvirus infection

Herpes simplex virus hominis type 2 can be transmitted by direct contact. Fever, inguinal lymphadenopathy, dysuria, urinary retention and vesicles, pustules and painful ulcers are typical clinical findings. Microscopic

features of herpes simplex virus infected epithelial cell is nuclear „ground glass“ appearance and typical eosinophilic intranuclear inclusion body predominantly in the margins of lesion, and finally lysis of cells. Immunohistochemistry for HSV is helpful for diagnosis of viral presence⁶.

Molluscum contagiosum

Poxviral disease transmitted with direct contact. Vulvar and perianal pruritic papules with central umbilication or punctum are present, and can be single or multiple. Microscopic findings are acanthosis, spongiosis, ballooning degeneration of epithelial cells which contain intracytoplasmatic eosinophilic inclusion bodies (Henderson-Paterson) which push the nucleus on the periphery of cells. Edema and perivascular inflammation with endothelial vascular proliferation are present in the derm. Recognition of typical microscopic findings can be helped with electron microscopy of the virus, but very rare analysis⁷.

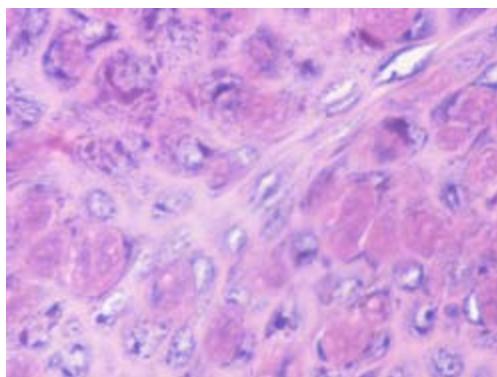


Figure 5. Molluscum contagiosum of vulvar skin
(HEx40)

Human papilloma viruses HPV

Human papilloma viruses (HPV) are epitheliotrophic viruses and cause premalignant and malignant transformation of epithelial cells⁸. One-half of women have other diseases of genital tract caused by HPV. Like other sexually transmitted diseases, direct contact is the way for infection.

Low-Risk HPV types for genital premalignant and malignant diseases are 6, 11, 42, 43, 44, Intermediate-Risk HPV types are 33, 35, 39, 51, 52 and High-Risk HPV are types 16, 18, 31, 45, 56. HPV type 6, 11, 16, 18, 33 are most commonly in vulva^{8,9}.

In the geometric style HPV started with disorders in the lowest third of epithelium where HPV includes in cell nuclei, and transforms and deregulates cell cycle and inhibition of apoptosis.

Condyloma are verrucous, papillary lesions of skin or mucous membrane. This benign neoplasms may be solitary, but may involve cervix, vagina, urethra, perianal skin and anal canal, predominantly in immunosuppressed patients. Central fibrovascular cores covered with squamous epithelium with acanthosis, hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis with or without koilocytic atypia in epithelium are microscopic features. Hyperplasia and enlarging of the parabasal cells, with accentuation of intercellular bridges and granular layer may be also present. Perinuclear „halos“, with picnotic or enlarged nuclei are present in the superficial cells, and multinucleated cells too, but they may be focal or absent. Abnormal mitosis are absent. Viral cytopathic changes are associated with HPV 6 and 11, but lack of koilocytic atypia does not exclude diagnosis of condyloma, an HPV infection⁸.

Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) are precancerous changes of the squamous type. International Society for Study of Vulvovaginal Disease and the International Society of Gynecological Pathologists recommended the use of term VIN.

According criteria like viral associated changes, clinical paramethars, microscopic features there are two pathways in carcinogenesis squamous cell carcinoma HPV-related pathway associated with VIN of the classic type, and the non-HPV related with VIN of the differentiated (simplex) type frequently associated with lichen sclerosus and/or vulvar hyperplasia^{9,10}.

Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia, classic type are present like focal or multifocal lesions in women with HPV infection, and they have concomitant cervical lesion in 50%). Risk factors are cigarette smoking, immunodeficiency. Microscopic features of VIN are high nucleo-cytoplasmic ratio, lack of cytoplasmatic maturation of basal and parabasal layers with crowding and cellular disarray, hyperchromasia and nuclear pleomorphism, mitotic figures, parakeratosis, hyperkeratosis, individual-cell keratinisation. Koilocytosis and binucleated and multinucleated cells are present too. Skin appendages are involved often. Immunohistochemical analysis p16, p63, survivin are very helpful for diagnostic HPV infection in VIN^{11,12}.

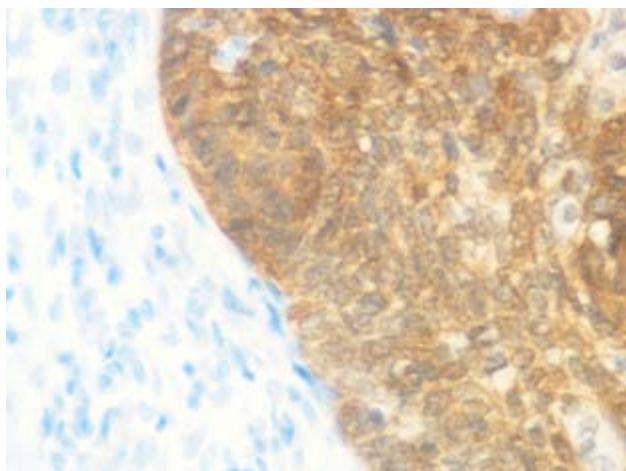


Figure 6. p16 immunoreactivity in cells of VIN (x40)

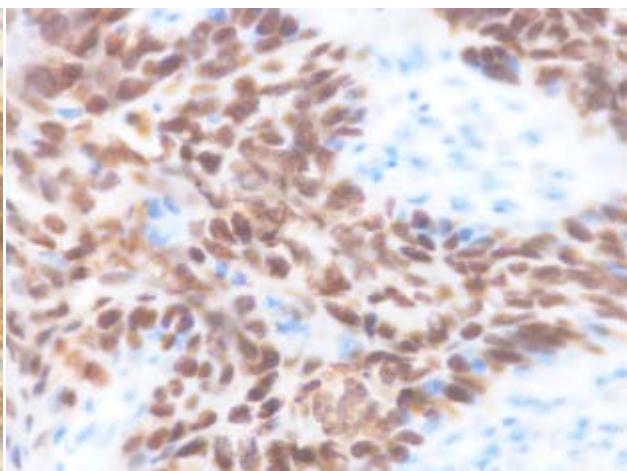


Figure 7. p63 immunoreactivity in cells of VIN (x40)

VIN differentiated (simplex) type affected predominantly older patients, and often associated with vulvar inflammatory disease or lichen sclerosus. Lesion is predominantly solitary without association with cervical disease, and HPV infection. The keratinocytes of differentiated VIN are large and pleomorphic, with eosinophilic cytoplasm in the basal and parabasal keratinocytes in the base of rete ridges. Prominent nucleoli in the enlarged nuclei are present predominantly in basal and parabasal keratinocytes. Elongation and anastomosis of rete pegs, and keratin pearl within rete may be present. Parakeratosis is often present¹⁰.

Some patients have “mixed” VIN lesion, and the report of microscopic findings must have predominant type of VIN.

Vulvar malignant epithelial tumors - selected topics

Vulvar squamous cell carcinoma

Invasive squamous carcinoma is the most common carcinoma of vulva. Carcinomas associated with HPV infection affected younger patients in risk groups of smokers, immunosuppression^{9,13}.

Morphologic subtypes of invasive squamous cell carcinoma include keratinizing, nonkeratinizing, basaloïd, warty, spindled, verrucous. Prognostic factors like stage, extracapsular nodal spread, infiltrative margins, vascular invasion, degree of differentiation, status of adjacent skin, stromal response, p53 overexpression are necessary for report^{14,15,16}.

Some authors suggest to detect dendritic cells by the Cd1a immunohistochemical analysis like prognostic factor¹⁷.



Figure 8. Immunoreactivity CD1a in squamous cell carcinoma of vulva (x5)

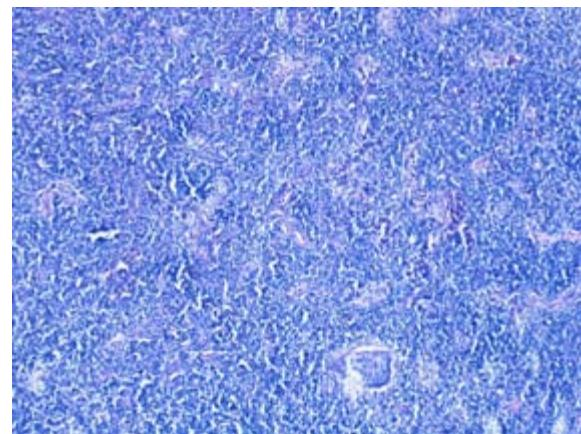


Figure 9. Metastatic cells of squamous cell carcinoma in lymph node(HEx10)

High tumor grade, capillary lymphatics invasion, bigger tumor size and depth invasion deserve immunohistochemical analysis of lymph nodes for metastatic cells of carcinoma.

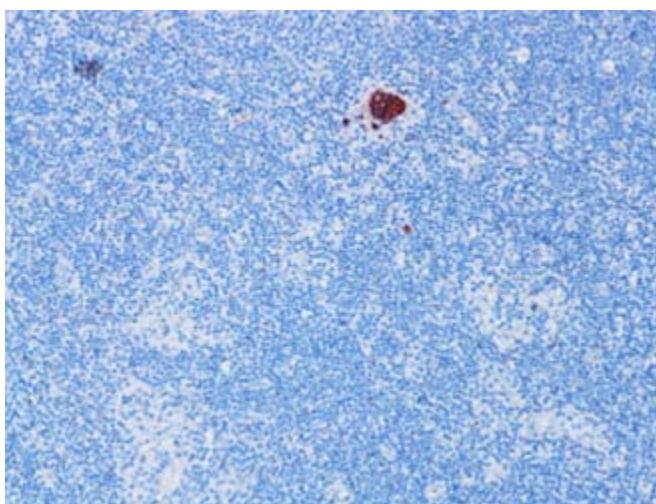


Figure 10. Pancitokeratin immunoreactivity of metastatic cells of carcinoma in lymph node (x10)

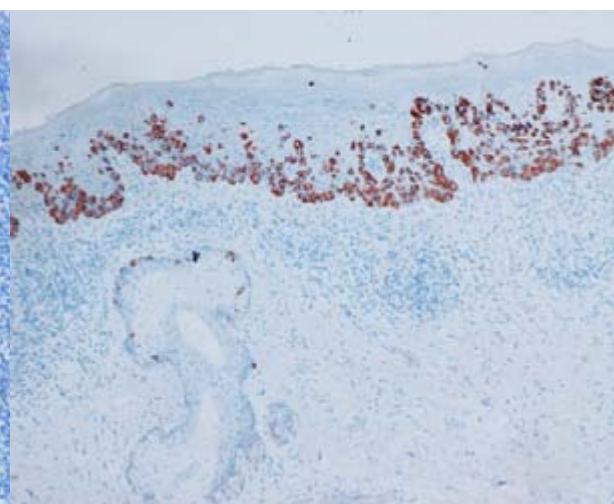


Figure 10. CK7 immunoreactivity in cells of vulvar Paget disease (x5)

MALIGNANT GLANDULAR TUMOR OF VULVA- selected topic

Vulvar Pagets disease

Extramammary Paget's disease is a rare neoplasm, predominantly in the seventh decade. Disease can be focal or extensive. Microscopic features are typical with intraepidermal proliferation of large, atypical glandular-type cells, with granular or vacuolated cytoplasm and round nuclei with prominent nucleoli. Localization of these cells is predominantly in the parabasal area, singly or in clusters, but may be in different layers of epithelium with "Pagetoid spread". Mitotic figures are present, but not very frequent.

Paget disease can be primary cutaneous vulvar disease, or associated with noncutaneous carcinoma gastrointestinal origin or bladder carcinoma. Immunohistochemical analysis is very helpful to determine primary origin.

Immunohistochemical finding in primary vulvar cutaneous Paget disease are CK7+, EMA+, CEA+, S100, MelanA-, HMB45-. Immunohistochemical finding in pagetoid rectal adenocarcinoma are CK7-, CK20+, CEA+. Immunohistochemical finding in pagetoid transitional cell carcinoma are CK7+/-, CK20+/-, CEA+, Uroplakin+.¹⁸

Some authors suggest that survivin is a useful prognostic marker for vulvar Paget disease¹⁹.

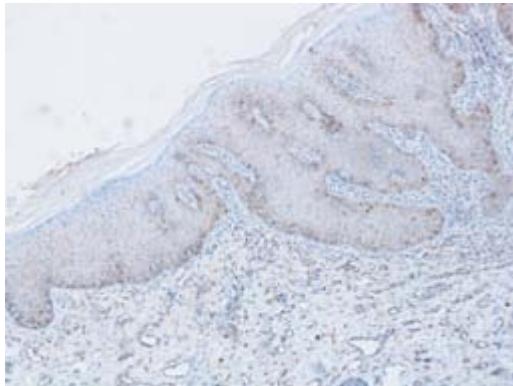


Figure 11. Survivin immunoreactivity in cells of vulvar Paget disease (x5)

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