

Letter To Editor

# Vulvar Lesion Mimicking Vitiligo Revealing a Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Citation: Alaoui IK, et al. Vulvar Lesion Mimicking Vitiligo Revealing a Squamous Cell Carcinoma. J Dermatol Res. 2023;4(1):1-3.

<https://doi.org/10.46889/JDR.2023.4108>

Received Date: 06-04-2023

Accepted Date: 23-04-2023

Published Date: 29-04-2023



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## Letter To Editor

Melanocytes respond to trauma or cutaneous inflammation by producing varying amounts of melanin, which manifests as either hyperpigmentation or hypopigmentation. Post inflammatory Hypopigmentation (PIH) is an acquired partial or total loss of skin pigmentation that occurs after cutaneous inflammation or injury [1]. Mechanisms and pathogenesis of PIH remain unclear. It is difficult to understand how individuals respond to inflammation differently. Skin discoloration is the primary clinical indication of pigment incontinence [2]. Vitiligo, another disease that presents similarly, is often confused with PIH. Significant contrast in wood light and dermoscopy can lead to a positive diagnosis of vitiligo.

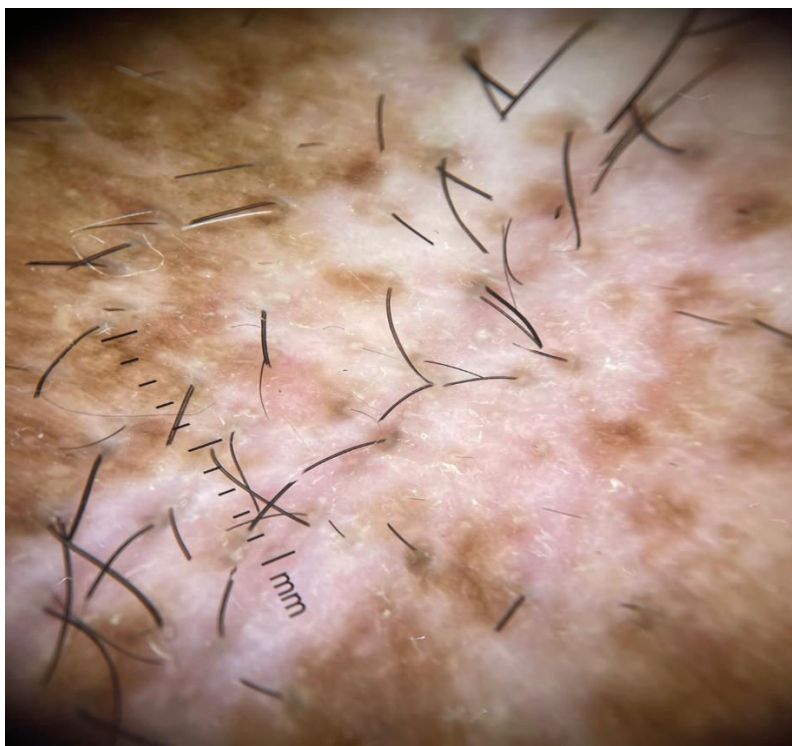
The most common malignant neoplasm affecting the vulva is Vulvar Squamous Cell Carcinoma (VSCC). It accounts for approximately 90% of all cases of vulvar cancer. The majority of female vulvar squamous cell cancer cases occur after menopause [3]. The causes of VSCC are multifactorial, with a number of risk factors identified, including infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV), chronic inflammation, and immunodeficiency [4].

A 56-year-old woman presented with a very pruritic erosive genital dyschromia evolving for 2 years, motivating her consultation in gynecology where a biopsy was performed showing a vulvar epidermoid carcinoma. The patient was referred to our training for suspicion of an associated vitiligo. Examination of the genital region revealed a well-limited hypopigmentation of regular contours involving the vulva and the inguinal folds bilaterally, with an erosive leukoplakic plaque affecting the small lip (Fig. 1). Dermoscopy showed a hypopigmentation pattern with perifollicular pigmentation and telangiectasias (Fig. 2). In front of the suspicion of a vitiligo, the wood's light did not mark a contrast (Fig. 3) and the diagnosis was in favor of a post-inflammatory hypopigmentation. The patient was readdressed in gynecology for further management.

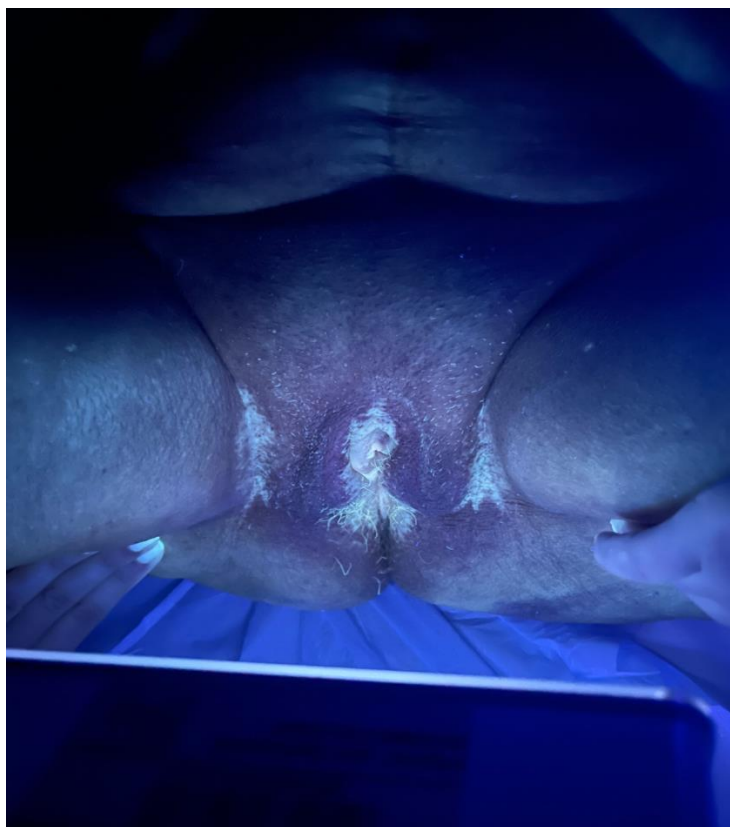
Hypopigmentation can be caused by chronic inflammatory conditions that increase the risk of VSCC [2]. Therefore, it is crucial to closely monitor and manage any chronic vulvar inflammation to reduce the risk of VSCC and associated skin changes [3].



**Figure 1:** Well-limited hypopigmented placard involving the genitalia and inguinal folds.



**Figure 2:** Dermoscopy showed hypopigmentation pattern with perifollicular pigmentation and telangiectasias.



**Figure 3:** The wood's light marks a light contrast.

**Keywords:** Vulvar Squamous Cell Carcinoma; Pigmentation; Dermoscopy; Leukoplakic Plaque

#### Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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