

Discrepancy in the correlation of colposcopic, cytological and histological findings: case study

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ABSTRACT

Purpose

This article intends to present a case of absence of correlation between the colposcopic, cytological and histological exams.

Case presentation

Following a routine gynecology visit, the 54 years old patient underwent a pap smear liquid based cytology, whose microscopic observation resulted in a diagnosis of epidermoid carcinoma. Subsequently, the patient was referred to a sequence of follow-up visits, having performed several exams, among which a biopsy of cervix with a negative result for intraepithelial lesion but with marked atrophy; a positive human papilloma virus test for genotypes 35 and 56 (high risk); and a cervical conization, which resulted in a diagnosis of low-grade intraepithelial lesion.

Discussion

After a bibliographical research, searching for examples of cases with discrepancy between cytology and histology findings, it was verified that the false negatives in both colposcopy and subsequent histological examinations, as well as the overestimation of the cytological findings, could be the cause for the disparity of results presented in this case.

Conclusion

This study refers to the importance of the correlation between cytology and histology, as well as the need for communication between the professionals from the different healthcare areas.

Key-words: Correlation; Cytology; Histology; Epidermoid Carcinoma; Atrophy.