

Northwest ZooPath

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Case No.: G23-4428

Obtained: 09/12, rec'd 09/22/23
Reported: 09/26/23

Drs. Bob Dahlhausen & Alison Cummings

Patient ID: Panther Chameleon
("Little Guy" Kaisor)

Avian & Exotic Animal Medical Center
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HISTORY: This 2-year-old male panther chameleon had a 3 mm., circular lump on the right hind leg in the lateral tibial region. The lesion was firm and pigmented on its surface but was otherwise yellow/tan.

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS: Open.

GROSS: Received in formalin is one tissue to 3 mm. in greatest dimension that is processed in one block.

MICROSCOPIC: The specimen represents a squamous cell carcinoma. The tumor is comprised of anastomosing cords and nests of neoplastic epithelial cells that differentiate from basaloid to squamous cells, sometimes oriented around accumulations of laminated keratin (squamous pearls). The tumor is invoking a marked scirrhous response and is in the examined deep and lateral margins. Neoplastic cells have distinct cell boundaries, mild to moderate anisokaryosis, ovoid nuclei with one or two, small nucleoli, and less than one mitotic figure per ten high power fields. The tumor is multifocally contiguous with overlying hyperplastic and dysplastic epidermis.

MICROSCOPIC DIAGNOSIS: Squamous cell carcinoma, skin of right hind leg.

COMMENT: Squamous cell carcinomas are common in chameleons. They can be part of a complex that involves papillomas, keratoacanthomas, and squamous cell carcinomas, the latter likely representing transformation of the others. These tumors frequently are multicentric. The tumor of this report is in the deep and lateral margins, and complete excision cannot be assured. Typically, these tumors are invasive but are slow to metastasize. No vascular invasion was seen.

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NZP Code: R, 8; squamous cell carcinoma, skin of right hind leg.