Case 1: A 72-year-old woman presented with an ulcer on her upper lip since one year ago. On physical examination, there was a pedunculated umbrella-shaped lesion which grew up to obstruct the nostril and down to reach the lower lip. The mass was brown to red with some crust and measured 2×2 cm. The lesion was just on a blue black tattoo. The patient had tattoo from many years ago. The patient did not have any history of skin cancer, radiotherapy, or other risk factors. Routine laboratory tests were within normal limits. Macroscopic and histopathologic views of the lesion are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Case 2: A 64-year-old woman presented with a lesion on her upper lip since 14 months ago. Clinical examination showed a crusting nodular lesion which measured 1×1 cm with peripheral pearly appearance just on a tattoo line. She had tattoos for 30 years. Histopathologic examination revealed basaloid tumor islands with peripheral palisading features associated with tattoo pigment localized between and within tumor cells (Figures 3 and 4). Routine laboratory tests were normal.

What is Your Diagnosis?

See the page 203 for the diagnosis.
Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) may arise from skin damage caused by sunlight or ionizing radiation. This tumor may occur in a burn or vaccination scar. Other risk factors include chronic trauma, inflammation, and even after a single injury. BCC has been reported at the site of venipuncture and surgical scars.

Several benign and malignant lesions may occur in tattoos, including verrucae, granulomas, allergic reaction, BCC, and squamous cell carcinoma. Moreover, several documented cases of malignant melanoma occurring in tattoos have been reported. The two cases presented here had BCC on their tattoos that may be due to injury following tattooing or biochemical alterations occurring during wound healing and also trauma to the skin.

Case 1, had an atypical type of BCC—the fungi form—which may be due to biochemical tissue changes or presence of tattooing materials. BCC may occur following any type of injury, as in tattooing, particularly on the face.

References