## Spontaneous regression of two giant basal cell carcinomas in a single patient after incomplete excision

Ulrich M Rieger<sup>1,2</sup>, Christina Schlecker<sup>2</sup>, Gerhard Pierer<sup>1,2</sup>, and Martin Haug<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, A.ö. Landeskrankenhaus Innsbruck, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria; <sup>2</sup>Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, University Hospital of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

## ABSTRACT

**Background.** Spontaneous regression of small basal cell carcinoma has been reported. For giant basal cell carcinoma, however, no spontaneous regression has been described to date.

**Case report.** We present a patient with two independent giant basal cell carcinomas over the left clavicle and the lower back, measuring 7 x 12 cm and 18 x 20 cm, respectively. Both tumors were excised incompletely (R2) and the patient refused follow-up resections. After 52 and 16 months, respectively, no signs of recurrence were observed.

**Conclusion.** Incompletely excised giant basal cell carcinomas can regress spontaneously. A watch-and-wait approach after incomplete resection may be pragmatic to avoid mutilating follow-up resections in patients refusing further surgery.

*Key words:* giant basal cell carcinoma, regression, terebrant ulcer.

*Correspondence to:* Ulrich M. Rieger, MD, Klinik für Plastische & Rekonstruktive Chirurgie, A.ö. Landeskrankenhaus Innsbruck, Medizinische Universität Innsbruck, Anichstraße 35, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria. Tel +43-512-504-0; e-mail ulrich.rieger@uki.at

Received April 15, 2008; accepted September 29, 2008.