Disoid lupus erythematosus (DLE) is a relatively benign disorder of the skin, most frequently involving the face, and characterized by various-sized, reddish, well-defined scaly patches, which tend to heal with atrophy, scarring and pigmentary changes\textsuperscript{[1]}.

It has been proposed that genetic factors and somatic mutations are implicated in the pathogenesis of the disease\textsuperscript{[2]}.

Squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs) and less commonly basal cell carcinomas occasionally occur in the scars of DLE, particularly the scalp, ears, lips and nose\textsuperscript{[3]}. An incidence of 3.3\% has been noticed in a series of 120 white patients with DLE\textsuperscript{[4]}.

A case of DLE with multiple SCCs was reported and the patient has a history of DLE for about 39 years\textsuperscript{[5]}.

The lesions occurred in chronic hyperkeratotic lesions of DLE\textsuperscript{[5]}.

The majority of the cancers evolved from sun-exposed areas such as the lip, cheek, pinna of the of the ear and forearm, suggesting that repeated sun exposure may be an additional factor in the induction of the tumour in DLE lesions\textsuperscript{[6]}.

Death may occur from multiple metastases\textsuperscript{[7]}.

From a total of 54 Iraqi patients with DLE lesions studied in the Department of Dermatology and Venereology in Baghdad Teaching Hospital during the period from November 1999 to May 2001, a 50 years old female with a scar due to a previous localized atrophic DLE in a butterfly distribution on the face of 20 years duration recently developed squamous cell carcinoma at the part of this scar that located on the upper lip with no metastasis to regional lymph nodes.

Therefore, the incidence of neoplastic changes in DLE in this study was about 1.8\% which was comparable to an incidence of 3.3\% that has been noticed in a series of 120 white patients with DLE\textsuperscript{[4]}.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first reported Iraqi case of development of squamous cell carcinoma at the scar of an old DLE lesion.
References