

Sir,

Epidermoid cysts are the commonest type of cutaneous cysts. They can occur anywhere on the external surface of the body as a single or multiple firm nodule. On the scrotum, they are often multiple and can be calcified. They rarely occur in the glans penis. Here, we report such a case of epidermoid cyst of the glans penis.

A 45-year-old Hindu male patient presented to our outpatient department with a small, painless swelling in his glans penis for the last eight years. On examination, it was found that the swelling was 1.5×1 cm in size, smooth, rounded and non-tender. It was situated just outside the external urinary meatus and no obvious punctum was found [Figure 1]. The external urethral meatus was normal in shape and size. He had a previous episode of spontaneous rupture of the cyst with extrusion of cheesy material after which the swelling disappeared. Thereafter, it reappeared slowly at the same site and attained the present size over two years. He was normoglycaemic, with normal renal and hematological parameters.

Under general anesthesia, the cyst was excised completely and the patient was catheterized. Sectioning of the cyst after removal caused extrusion of white pultaceous material. Histopathological examination

confirmed the diagnosis of an epidermoid cyst lined by stratified squamous epithelium containing laminated keratin debris [Figures 2 and 3]. The lesion did not recur during the follow-up period of one year.

Epidermoid cyst is very uncommon in the glans penis.^[1,2] The first case was reported by Khanna in 1991.^[1] Two further reports of epidermoid cyst of the glans penis in children by Papali *et al.* in 2008 were discovered after a MEDLINE search.^[2] Though rare, Shah *et al.* (1972) reported a sebaceous cyst in the penile shaft.^[3] Suwa *et al.* (2000) and Singh *et al.* (2011) reported epidermoid cysts in the median raphe of the penis.^[4,5] Cysts at this site have been ascribed to previous circumcision or trauma to the penis.^[5] The criteria proposed for diagnosis of epidermoid cysts of the glans penis are the following: It should be surrounded by penile tissue, filled with keratin material only, with an inner lining of stratified squamous epithelium, without any dermal appendages.^[1] The differential diagnosis includes dermoid cyst or teratoma which can be easily differentiated by histopathological examination. The indications for treatment of this cyst are secondary infection, pain on intercourse, obstruction of urinary flow or cosmetic concerns.^[4] The best treatment option is complete excision, but the surgeon should carefully



Figure 1: Smooth, rounded cyst on the glans penis

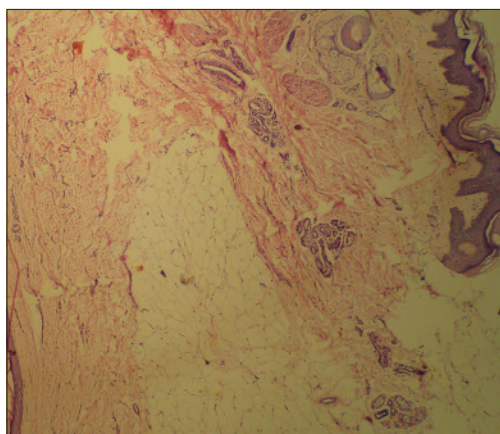


Figure 2: Epidermoid cyst lined by squamous epithelium (H and E, ×10)

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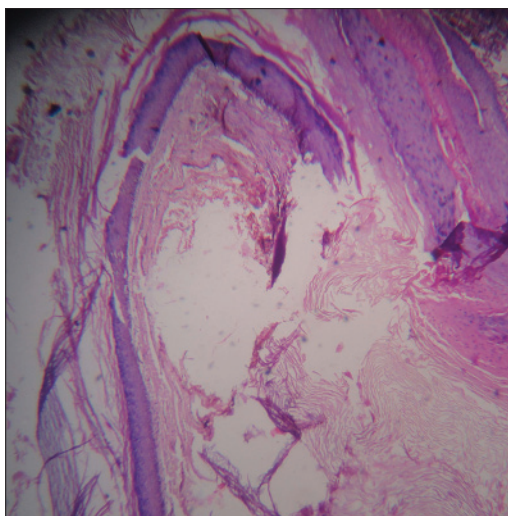


Figure 3: Keratinous cyst content and the cyst wall (H and E, x40)

excise the entire cyst to avoid recurrence. Though malignant changes are reported in epidermoid cyst at other sites, there are no reports of malignant changes in penile or glandular epidermoid cyst till date.^[4,5]

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