SYRINGOMA
(A Case Report)

V. N. SEHGAL,* V. L. REGE,* M. F. MASCARENHAS * AND M. REYS †

Summary

The clinical and histological features of a case of syringoma, a rare condition, are reported.

Syringoma is a fascinating uncommon clinical entity, characterised by rounded or flat topped flesh coloured or yellowish translucent papules 1 to 5 mm in diameter seen mainly on the face, neck and chest. Rarely the vulva and penis may also be involved[2,8]. Lesions usually make their appearance in females at adolescence. They may slightly increase in size in warm weather.

Recently we had a case of syringoma, the details of which forms the subject of this report.

Case Report

A 14 year old girl presented with cosmetically disfiguring asymptomatic, gradually progressive eruptions on the face of 11 years' duration. The lesions had first appeared at the outer canthus of the right eye. There was no positive family history.

Clinical examination revealed multiple skin coloured, yellowish translucent papules with a lobulated surface their size ranging from 2 to 6 mm. The lesions were closely packed together on the nose, malar regions, around the eyes and above the upper lip (Fig. 1 page No. 195). No lesions were seen on any abnormalities. A skin biopsy was taken for histological examination.

A careful examination of 26 members of the family did not show any similar lesions.

Section stained with haemtoxylin-eosin showed multiple solid, cystic islands of varying sizes and shapes made up of epithelial cells, in the dermis. The walls of the cystic spaces were lined by two layers of flat epithelial cells, some showing a vacuolated appearance. The luminae of the ducts were filled with a colloidal material (Fig. 2 page No. 195). Histological features were consistent with those seen in syringoma.

Comments

Syringoma is a rare benign tumour, now believed to be an adenoma of intraepidermal eccrine ducts[6]. The clincial diagnosis is likely to be missed because of its rarity, as borne out by a study from England where 35 patients were seen in the course of 10 years[4].

In our case the diagnosis was missed clinically but made on histological examination. Only a few case records are available from our country[1,3,7].

* Department of Venereology and Dermatology
† Department of Pathology and Bacteriology
Goa Medical College, Panjim-403001, Goa.

Received for publication on 22—3—1976

Recently an interesting report has been published by Yesudian and Thambiah[7] wherein they reported occurrence of syringoma in two members of a family, although the ritual text[5] does not mention such an occurrence. No familial incidence could be demonstrated in our case. The appearance of the disease at the age of 3 years was unusual because the disease is known to manifest at adolescence.

REFERENCES

1. Amin SP and Shah BH: Syringoma a case report with review of literature, Ind J Derm Vener, 39 : 133, 1973.
2. Carnier: Syringoma of vulva, Arch Derm, 103:494, 1971.
3. Mehta TK and Marquis L: Syringoma, Ind J Derm Vener 33 : 201, 1967.
4. Nissen B and Marks R: Eruptive syringoma. A clinico-pathological study of 35 patients, Brit J Derm, 91 : 20, 1974.
5. Rook A, Wilkinson DS and Ebling FJG: Textbook of Dermatology 2nd edition, Blackwell, Oxford, 1972 p 1942.
6. Lever WF and Lever GS: Histopathology of skin, 5th edition, JB Lippincot Company, 1975 p 513.
7. Yesudian P and Thambiah A: Familial Syringoma, Dermatologica, 150 : 32, 1975.
8. Zalla ZA and Perry HO: An unusual case of syringoma, Arch Derm, 103 : 215, 1971.

FALSE

Roth and Roth have demonstrated the in vitro protective effect of flavins on the structures of cellular DNA when exposed to UV radiation. They found that cultured embryonic hamster cells were protected from UV induced growth inhibition and death when sufficient amounts of riboflavin or flavin mononucleotides were present in the tissue culture media. However, a study undertaken to evaluate any protective effects of riboflavin on UV induced carcinogenesis in the well established hairless mouse model has failed to demonstrate such anticarcinogenic effect.

Reference: Pacernick LJ, Soltani Keyoumars and Lorincz AL: The inefficacy of riboflavin against ultraviolet-induced carcinogenesis, J Invest Derm, 65: 547, 1975.