

GIANT PALMAR CUTANEOUS HORNS

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A 50-year-old man developed two giant cutaneous horns measuring 4 cm and 1 cm respectively, on his right palm.

Key words : Cutaneous horn,

Cutaneous horn usually forms due to unusual cohesiveness of the keratinised material on a variety of benign and malignant lesions, such as verrucous epidermal nevi, viral warts, seborrhoeic keratoses, precancerous keratoses, or squamous cell carcinomas.¹ Clinically, it manifests as a hard, yellowish brown and often curved keratotic protrusion resembling the animal horn.² These are most commonly seen on the scalp, nose and forehead, and relatively rarely on the genitalia.³ We are herewith reporting a patient who had giant cutaneous horns on his right palm. While reviewing the literature on cutaneous horns, we could not find any report on palmar cutaneous horn; though a few cases of penile horns^{4,5} have been reported.

Case Report

A 50-year-old male patient attended the skin out-patient department with two hard protrusions on his right palm. One and a half year back, he had developed an asymptomatic papule on the mid palmar crease. There was no history of preceding local trauma or any other disease. It gradually increased in size and took the form of a protrusion. He was operated upon for the same and then he remained well till one year back when he started developing the same type of lesion at the same site. It gradually increased in size more so perpendicularly, in one year time. There was mild itching and secondary infection at the base of the lesion off and on. The lesion, being tender and on the right palm, interfered with his routine activities. A few

months back, he developed another a similar lesion on the same scar near the junction of the middle and the lower palmar creases. The two yellowish brown protrusions were hard in consistency. The bigger one was 4 cm long with 2.5 cm wide base and present on the mid palmar crease, while, the smaller one was 1 cm long and 1 cm wide, and present at the junction of the mid and the lower palmar creases. Both the lesions were very tender. The margins of the skin around the base were dry, thick and keratotic. The horns were excised and the bare area was covered by skin grafts.

Comments

Cutaneous horns are relatively uncommon, and seen most commonly on the exposed areas. There are a few reports of the penile horns, and physical trauma has been thought to be the cause.^{4,5} Our case was interesting in the sense that he had developed a double giant cutaneous horn. One and a half years ago the disease started with an asymptomatic papule without preceding trauma.

References

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