TRICHOEPITHELIOMA

by

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Trichoepithelioma is an uncommon adnexal tumor of the skin differentiating towards hair follicles, is usually multiple and frequently familial, the inheritence being by a simple autosomal dominant gene. Less frequently it occurs as a solitary lesion and is, then, not familial

The present communication pertains to a family with seven cases of trichoepithelioma distributed over three generations The clinical characters of two of the patients available for examination are detailed below.

REPORT OF CASES

Case 1 K A. 26 F presented with complaints of asympatomatic papulonodular lesions on the face of sixteen years duration. The lesions had been gradually increasing in size and number over this period. Patient had no systemic complaints.

Examination revealed the patient to be having multiple skin coloured and slightly pale firm papulonodular lesions varying from 3-6 mm in diameter. The lesions were chiefly distributed in the nasolabial folds extending down to the lips and up to the forehead. No telengiectasia or atrophy was seen. Systemic examination was unremarkable.

Histopathologic findings :- The epidermis was atrophic and rete-ridges almost completely flattened out. The dermis contained a number of masses of epidermal cells distributed throughout its width. The epidermal cells were well organised and were in a number of places differentiating towards hair structures. No abnormality of cells or nuclei was observed. There were no undue mitotic figures seen. Other appendages were quite nomal. There was mild non-specific inflammatory infiltrate scattered in the dermis.

Case 2 S. K. 21 M brother of case 1 presented with similar papuloncdular lesions cofined chiefly to nasolabial folds extending slightly onto the upper lip. Examination revealed lesions similar to case 1, though less numerous.

Histopathologic findings :— were similar to case 1. The family tree is given below.

COMMENTS

Trichoepithelioma is an uncommon condition in this part of the world. The present report highlights a family with seven members affected by this heredofamilial condition inherited by a completely penetrant autosomal dominant

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gene. The absence of involvement in the off-spring of case 1, is possibly because of the young age of the children since most patients with trichoepithelioma start with clinically obvious lesions around puberty (Rook et al. 1968). The condition is benign and does not involve any other system. The treatment consists in surgical removal or electrocauterization. The latter mode of treatment was employed in these patients with fair degree of success.

SUMMARY

A family with seven patients of trichoepithelioma is presented. The mode of inheritence is shown to be autosomal dominant.

REFERENCES

1. Arthur Rook et al(Ed.1968), Text Book of Dermatology.
2. Mehta T. K. et al. Ind. J. Derm & Ven. Vol. 35 151-154 1969.