

CUTANEOUS HORN OVER THE SCAR WITH UNDERLYING MALIGNANCY

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A 62-year-old female patient developed a cutaneous horn over the scar area. Histopathological examination of the form revealed squamous cell carcinoma.

Key words : Scar, Cutaneous horn, Squamous cell carcinoma.

Cutaneous horn is a hard, keratotic, curved protrusion resembling an animal horn in miniature,¹ most commonly seen on the scalp, nose and forehead, rarely on the genitalia.² It 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 keratosis, precancerous keratosis or squamous cell carcinomas.³ Most of the report^{2,4,5} of cutaneous horn from India are over a benign lesion. We report a case where cutaneous horn was formed over the scar area with underlying malignancy.

Case Report

A 62-year-old female patient developed a hard growth over the radial side of right wrist for one and a half years. She had had injury over the right hand four years back, which left behind a large scar and non-functional hand. One and half years back she noticed a blackish growth which went on increasing in size without much discomfort. The growth was brownish black, hard with a rough surface, present over the centrally depigmented scar. It was nontender. Excision biopsy showed squamous cell carcinoma.

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Comments

Cutaneous horn can form over a variety of benign lesions. In our case, it appeared over the scar area but histopathological examination revealed carcinomatous change which was not clinically evident. The only earlier report of cutaneous horn from India with underlying malignancy is from Kumar and Tiwari.⁶ It seems histopathological examination must be done in all cutaneous horn cases to rule out malignancy.

References

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