Multiple Sebaceous Horn on the Penis—an Interesting Case Report

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Received: 16 November 2012 / Accepted: 17 January 2013 / Published online: 30 January 2013
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Abstract Sebaceous horns (de la Pena Zarzuelo et al., Arch Esp Urol 54:367–368, 2001; Vera-Donoso, Scand J Urol Nephrol 43:92–93, 2009) are rare on the penis, as they are commonly seen only on sun-exposed areas. A 45-year-old male presenting with multiple sebaceous horns of the penis is reported here. Excision of the horn with a rim of normal tissue in the base was done. Histopathological examination revealed no malignant change.

Keywords Multiple penile horns · Sebaceous horn · Cutaneous horn · Malignant change

Case Report

We report a 45-year-old male patient who had two horn-like lesions on the left side of his penis near the corona for the past 6 months and had pain at the site of lesion for the past 1 month; he had no itching or discharge with a history of previous excision of a lesion at the same site 15 years back (details not known) and a history of circumcision in childhood for phimosis. Examination revealed two horn-like lesions seen at the corona, both lesions originating from the same base (Fig. 1).

On palpation, it was hard in consistency, lesion was fixed to the skin, and base of lesion indurated. Inguinal lymph nodes were not palpable. Both lesions were excised with a

rim of normal tissue and primary closure was done. Postoperative period was uneventful.

Histopathology Report

Histopathology of section from the base of the skin showed hyperkeratotic and parakeratotic epidermis with dense inflammatory cell infiltration in the subepidermal zone overlying the fibrocollagenous dermis. No evidence of dysplasia or malignancy was seen. Congested blood vessels and lymphoid aggregates were seen in superficial dermis. A section from horn showed extensive keratinization.

Discussion

Sebaceous horns also known as cutaneous horns [1, 2] are seen commonly on sun-exposed areas. They are rarely seen on the penis. Sebaceous horn is a clinical diagnosis in which horn-like projection composed of compacted keratin is seen above the surface of the skin and the base of which may be flat, nodular, or crateriform. The etiology of penile horns is uncertain, but the horn may be formed by compacted keratin due to drying up of the oozing secretion from a sebaceous cyst over a period of time. Lesions like squamous cell carcinoma, actinic keratosis, keratoacanthoma, Bowen's disease, seborrheic keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, hemangioma, keratotic and micaceous pseudopapillomatous balanitis, Kaposi's sarcoma, and sebaceous adenoma [1] may be seen in the base of the horn. Cutaneous horn was described first in 1854, and since then, only about 100 cases have been reported. Only one case of multiple cutaneous horns is reported [3]. Malignant change can be seen at the base of the horn. Microscopically, hyperkeratosis, acanthosis, dyskeratosis, papillomatosis, and chronic inflammatory

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Fig. 1 Multiple sebaceous horn on penis

infiltration of the adjacent dermis may be seen. Excision of the lesion with a rim of normal tissue at the base should be done. HPE should be done to rule out malignant transformation [4, 5]. If malignant change is found, partial penectomy with or without inguinal block dissection should be done.

Conclusion

Sebaceous horns are commonly seen on sun-exposed areas and their occurrence on the penis is uncommon. The occurrence of multiple horns in the penis is very rare.

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