CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Condyloma in the Nose

A 45-year-old man presented with a soft, verrucous tumor in the nose that had developed over the preceding 12 months without causing any symptoms other than the mass itself (*Figure*). He had further tumors of this type on the penis as well as peri- and intra-anally. The patient had been HIV-positive since 1986 and had been suffering from recurrent condylomata for 20 years, with a history of more than 50 operations and multiple local treatments. A weakened immune system promotes the appearance of HPV-associated tumors and elevates their rate of recurrence. The longstanding persistence of such tumors can be followed by malignant degeneration. The differential diagnosis of intranasal condyloma includes intranasal papilloma and squamous-cell carcinoma. When this patient presented to us, his immune status was impaired (viral burden, 225 000 copies/ml; CD4⁺ T helper cells, 53/μl; CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio, 0.1). He refused antiretroviral therapy on multiple occasions. The nasal manifestation of a condyloma is extremely rare. The condyloma in the nose was removed by curettage followed by local treatment with a carbon dioxide laser.

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Conflict of interest statement: The authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

Cite this as: Streit E, Gholam P: Condyloma in the nose. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2017; 114: 857. DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2017.0857

Translated from the original German by Ethan Taub, M.D.