

## TRICHO-EPITHELIOMA OF THE EYELID\*

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THIS tumour, first described by Brooke, and later studied by Savatard (Mackenna, 1937), is rather rare. Its aetiology is congenital, though the lesion may not appear until puberty, and is frequently hereditary. The tumours, which develop on the face and are usually symmetrical and shiny and associated with the hair follicles, may become locally malignant.

### Case Reports

(1) A female aged 53 years attended the out-patients' department with the complaint of a tumour arising from the margin of the lower lid near the inner canthus which had been growing for the last 6 years to its present size of about 1.25 cm. in diameter. There was a previous history of a similar smaller growth of 8 years' duration, arising from the margin of the lower lid of the same eye but near the outer canthus, which had been excised about 6 years before. The present tumour which was tender though not painful, was sessile and moved with the skin. The centre of the tumour was keratinized. There were no other tumours anywhere else on the face or body. No other abnormality could be detected and all the routine laboratory examinations were normal. The growth was excised under local anaesthesia, and microscopic examination revealed that it was an epithelioma adenoides cysticum.

(2) A female aged 44 years attended the hospital with multiple wart-like growths on the skin of both the lower lids which had been present for the last 7 years, though more marked for the last 12 months. There had been slight burning and irritation for 6 months. The growths, ten on the right and eight on the left, were subcutaneous, lobulated, somewhat pale, and firm. The upper lids were free and no such growths were visible anywhere else on the body. The eyes were normal and routine laboratory examinations did not reveal anything unusual.

Histologically the growths showed marked hyperplasia of the epithelial cells of hair follicles and sebaceous glands, with cellular downgrowths and multiple cystic formations. No evidence of malignancy was seen.

(3) A male aged 27 years presented with symptomless multiple tiny papular growths over both the lower lids for the last 5 years. There were twelve on the right and ten on the left varying in size from a pin head to about 3 mm. wide. They were superficial, soft, lobulated, and of the same colour as the rest of the face. No such papules were present anywhere else on the body. The eyes were normal.

The histological picture was identical to that in the previous case, except that the changes were not so much advanced.

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### Discussion

The name tricho-epithelioma indicates that in this tumour differential diagnosis is directed towards the hair structures. Reese (1951) states that these tumours may be single or multiple, are noticed in early life, and grow very slowly, and that there may be some keratinization as in our first case. In our three cases the tumours appeared for the first time when the patients were aged 39, 37, and 22 respectively, the first two being unusually late. Keyes and Queen (1945) reported a case involving the lid margin with many abnormal fine blond hairs protruding from the surface. No such feature was present in our cases. We feel that the tendency for slow growth of the tumour indicates a possible local change towards malignancy. This tendency has been observed by Duke-Elder (1952), but Reese (1951) views this tumour as a type of basal cell epithelioma.

### Summary

Three cases of tricho-epithelioma of the lid margin are described. The first had several unusual features, namely age at onset, size, the fact that it was a solitary lesion, and the tendency to re-appear at a different site.

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## TWO CASES OF CONJUNCTIVAL CYST\*

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CONJUNCTIVAL cysts are rare, but six types have been described in the literature: congenital cysts commonly seen in naevi; traumatic cysts of the implantation type following operation or injury; epithelial or glandular retention cysts; pseudo-cysts after papillary hypertrophy of the conjunctiva usually following trachoma; lymphatic cysts resulting from dilation of lymphatic vessels; parasitic cysts.

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