GRANULOMA PYOGENICUM*

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GRANULOMA PYOGENICUM is a rare condition characterized by the appearance of a small raspberry-like vascular growth which may appear on any part of the skin usually after trauma. It may be pedunculated or mushroom-shaped and usually bleeds spontaneously. It grows rapidly and is frequently mistaken for a malignant tumour. Histologically this tumour is characterized by an abundance of granulation tissue with marked capillary endothelial proliferation and infiltration with non-specific inflammatory cells. Out of 26 cases seen in Freiburg a clinical diagnosis of granuloma pyogenicum was made in only one (Luchs, 1920). The aetiology of this condition is not yet certain. Poncet and Dor (1897-1900), who first described it, attributed it to a fungal infection identical to *Botryomycosis* of horses, but now it is commonly thought to be due to a *Staphylococcus aureus* infection (Bodin, 1902).

Case Report

A Hindu male aged 60 came to the out-patients department with a swelling hanging from the left lower lid (Fig. 1). It had appeared about 4 months earlier after he had scratched his lids with his finger nail, and had since been steadily growing.

Examination.—A rounded oval swelling, dull red in colour, and measuring about 3.25×3.75 cm. was found attached by a narrow pedicle (Fig. 2) to the skin of the lower lid about 3 mm. from the lid margin at the junction of the inner third with the middle third. The surface of the swelling was irregular and encrusted, and ulcerated in places (Figs 1 and 2).

FIG. 1.—Large swelling (granuloma pyogenicum) hanging from the left lower lid.

FIG. 2.—Narrow pedicle of swelling attached to skin of lower lid about 3 mm. from lid margin.

The swelling was soft and firm in consistency and was freely movable over the deeper structures. The regional glands were not enlarged.

Treatment.—The swelling and the pedicle were excised.

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Histological Examination.—There was focal attenuation of the ulcerated epidermis (Figs 3 and 4). The underlying dermis had been replaced by a maze of capillaries of varying degrees of maturity. Moderate numbers of inflammatory cells, particularly plasma cells, were scattered in the oedematous dermis.

FIG. 3.—Histological section, showing attenuated epidermis and maze of capillaries of varying degrees of maturity. ($\times 90$).

FIG. 4.—Histological section, showing maze of capillaries of varying degrees of maturity. ($\times 322$).

Diagnosis.—These findings established the diagnosis of granuloma pyogenicum.

Summary

- (1) A case of granuloma pyogenicum of the left lower lid is described.
- (2) The growth is probably the largest so far reported.

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