

Cutaneous Horn on Condyloma Acuminatum

Sir,

A 42-year-old Nepalese male presented with an asymptomatic, firm, non-tender, irregular growth measuring 4 cm × 2.5 cm involving three-quarters of the glans penis, with a 2.5 cm, hard, yellow, projectile mass covering it of 11 and 1.5 years duration, respectively (Fig. 1). The patient gave history of multiple, heterosexual, unprotected, extramarital sexual encounters with many commercial sex workers.

He had undergone various treatment modalities, such as repeated surgical excision, electrical and chemical cauterizations and circumcision. Despite these treatments, the lesion kept recurring.

There was no significant inguinal lymphadenopathy. His general physical examination and systemic examination were normal. Clinical differential diagnoses of condyloma acuminatum and squamous cell carcinoma with overlying cutaneous horn were considered. Haemogram and urinalysis were normal. VDRL was non-reactive and serology for HIV was negative. Scalpel biopsy of the lesion showed massive hyperkeratosis with vertical tiers of parakeratotic cells, acanthosis, papillomatosis and foci of clumped keratohyaline granules and moderate mononuclear cell infiltrate in the dermis suggestive of an older lesion of condyloma acuminatum with cutaneous horn. In view of the repeated recurrences even after various physical modes of treatments in the past and to rule out malignancy, partial amputation of the penis



Fig. 1. Cutaneous horn with condyloma acuminatum covering three-quarters of the glans penis.

was carried out under general anaesthesia. There was no evidence of malignancy in the excised specimen. The patient has had a follow-up for 6 months without any recurrence.

DISCUSSION

Cutaneous horn is defined as projectile, conical, dense, hyperkeratotic mass resembling animal horn, resulting from an unusual cohesiveness of keratinized tissue. It is whitish or yellowish in colour, ranging in size from a few millimetres to several centimetres. It occurs mostly on exposed areas such as the dorsa of hands, face and pinnae (1). Cutaneous horn of penis is a rare condition with less than 100 cases reported in the world, of which 19 were from English language publications (2). In most of the patients, the underlying lesion is benign, however, approximately one-third have squamous cell carcinomas (3). Occurrence of penile cutaneous horns on warts resembling that seen in the patient described here, have been reported occasionally (4–6). We have described here a case of cutaneous horn on the glans penis with underlying condyloma acuminatum. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case of its kind from Nepal.

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Accepted November 12, 1999.

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