Straight-hair Nevus in a Patient with Straight Hair

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A case of straight-hair nevus in a 12-year old Korean boy with straight hair is presented. (Received March 19, 1983.)

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Straight-hair nevus is a rare condition which has previously been reported in two Negro children, first by Day (1) in a 6-year-old Negro girl who also had ichthyosis hystrix and leukokeratosis, and in addition to normally curly Negro scalp hair she had distinct areas of the scalp with straight hairs. Later Gibbs & Berger (2) presented a 10-year-old Negro girl with extensive verrucous plaques of irregular outline limited to the right side of the scalp, with sparse, short and straight hairs in contrast to normal curly hairs on the remaining scalp.

Here we present a third case of straight hair nevus which differs from the first reported cases by occurring in a child with straight hair.

CASE REPORT

A 12-year-old Korean boy developed at the age of 2 years a linear verrucous scaly plaque on the right side of the vertex. The lesion increased in size in tact with the child’s growth. The hairs in the

Fig. 1. The linear verrucous scaly plaque on the right side of the vertex.

Fig. 2. Histology demonstrates a sharp bend of the follicular neck (×100).
involved area (Fig. 1) of the scalp were sparse, thin, short (average 1 cm), fair and straight, in marked contrast to the remaining black, thick, shiny and long hairs. All hairs in the affected area could easily be pulled out. A biopsy from the involved part of the scalp showed normal epidermis and dermis. In spite of numerous sections, only one hair follicle was found. This hair follicle demonstrated a sharp bend in the follicular neck (Fig. 2).

Examination of roots of plucked hairs from the involved scalp area showed approximately 90% in telogen phase.

DISCUSSION

Straight-hair nevus has previously been published in two Negro girls with curly Negro hair. Our patient is a Korean with straight hair and an almost linear unilateral lesion. The normal hair was black and thick, whereas the lesional hair was lighter, thin and short, and could easily be pulled out. The similarity between our patient and the patient reported by Gibbs & Berger (2) is striking. Like us, they found a sharp bend in the follicular neck. The significance of this finding is inexplicable. The increased proportion of hairs in telogen phase could explain the short length of the hairs and why the hairs were easy to pull out.

REFERENCES


Leukoplakia of the Prepuce with Epidermolytic Hyperkeratosis: A Case Report

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A leukoplakic lesion of the prepuce is described with the histologic and ultrastructural features of epidermolytic hyperkeratosis. The lesion represents most likely a variant of epidermolytic leukoplakia recently observed in the vermilion border of the lip. Key words: Preputial epidermis; Epidermolytic leukoplakia. (Received April 13, 1983.)

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The term epidermolytic hyperkeratosis is applied to a distinctive, but nonspecific pathological process of the epidermis which is histologically characterized by vacuolization of the upper epidermal cells and by a thickened granular layer containing irregular keratohyaline granules. The histopathologic features of epidermolytic hyperkeratosis can occur in a wide variety of benign skin disorders including genodermatoses, acquired and nevoid dermatoses (1). More recently, similar alterations of the epidermis have been found to be associated with leukoplakic, probably precancerous skin lesions of the lip (2, 3). In the present case report, we demonstrate the occurrence of epidermolytic hyperkeratosis in a leukoplakic lesion of the prepuce.

CASE REPORT

The 51-year-old man presented with a sharply demarcated leukoplakia of the prepuce measuring 0.5 x 1.0 cm. There were no subjective symptoms. The lesion had developed six months earlier and