Case Report

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Hair Follicle Nevus

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Key Words

Vellus hair follicle
Accessory auricle
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Abstract

We present a case of hair follicle nevus, a rare hamartoma composed of vellus hair follicles. Hair follicle nevus should be differentiated from accessory auricle, trichofolliculoma and hair nevus.

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Hair follicle nevus [1-3] is a very rare hamartoma. A case of hair follicle nevus is here presented, and we discuss the differential diagnosis of this rare hamartoma.

Case Report

A 4-day-old baby boy was seen for treatment of a nodule on the left preauricular area. It had been present since birth. A physical examination revealed an elastic, soft, pedunculated, skin-colored nodule, measuring 2 mm in diameter. The lesion was excised. Histopathologic examination showed numerous tiny but well-differentiated vellus hair follicles in the dermis (fig. 1). Some follicles were associated with small sebaceous glands, and there were a few eccrine sweat glands (fig. 2). Serial sections revealed no cartilage or smooth muscle. The overlying epidermis was almost normal.

Discussion

Hair follicle nevus is a rare hamartoma composed of vellus hair follicles [1-3], which is also called congenital vellus hamartoma by Headington [4]. It is usually present as a small tumor on the face at birth [2], occasionally accompanied by a few small sebaceous glands, pilar muscles and eccrine sweat apparatus [5].

Hair follicle nevus must be distinguished from accessory auricle, trichofolliculoma and hair nevus. Accessory auricle is a more complex structure, which consists not only of a pilar complex but also cutaneous appendages in different stages of development. A central plate of elastic cartilage is present in most specimens. For differential diagnosis between hair follicle nevus and accessory auricle, it is necessary to examine serial sections [6]. Trichofolliculoma usually occurs in adults. On histologic examination, the dermis contains one or several keratin-filled cysts or sinuses lined by squamous epithelium. Many small but usually fairly well-differentiated hair follicles are radiating from the wall of these cysts or sinuses. Thus, as suggested by Kligman and Pinkus [7], the cases reported by Prinz [8] and Hyman and Clayman [9] would be better

classified as a trichofolliculoma. Hair nevus shows localized growth of unusually strong hairs, while the crowding of many tiny vellus hair follicles constitutes a hair follicle nevus [3].

Fig. 1. Numerous small hair follicles in a pedunculated nodule. HE. $\times 50$.

Fig. 2. Higher-power view showing hair follicles accompanied by small sebaceous glands and a few eccrine sweat apparatus in the dermis. HE. $\times 200$.

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