Epidermoid Carcinoma of Conjunctiva

A case report

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Epidermoid carcinoma of the conjunctiva arises at the sites of epithelial transition. Chronic irritation acts as a precipitating factor. Therefore it is interesting to note that it is usually located in the palpebral aperture on the temporal side of the limbus. This tumor belongs to the elderly age group, and occurs mostly in males (Ash and Wilder 1942).

The present case is of interest because the tumor appeared in a young boy of 17 years of age over a pterygium.

Case Report.

Patient S., a boy of 17, farmer by occupation, attended the hospital with a growth on the medial side of the limbus of the right eye which had been present for the last 7 months. It was gradually growing in size but painless. On local examination it was found that a grey keratinised growth of 0.25 cm. × 0.25 cm. in size was present over a small pterygium of about 3 years duration. The neighbouring blood vessels were prominent with a pink flush all round. The growth was moveable with the pterygium and was not adherent to the deeper structures. Regional glands were not palpable. The growth could be excised easily together with the pterygium leaving behind a clean base. The growth was sent for microscopic examination and was reported as epidermoid carcinoma grade I.

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Comments.

The unusual features of the present case are the early age at which the tumor has appeared, and its appearance from a preexisting pterygium. It is known that squamous cell epithelioma of the conjunctiva may appear from degenerative conditions like benign leukoplakias (Reese 1951) and dyskeratosis (Ash and Wilder 1942). Therefore the appearance of this tumor from a pterygium is explainable as it is also one of the allied conditions of the conjunctiva.

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Summary.

A case of epidermoid carcinoma grade I arising from a pterygium is described in a 17-year-old boy.

Zusammenfassung.

Beschreibung eines Falles von epidermoidem Karzinom ersten Grades, ausgehend von einem Pterygium bei einem 17jährigen Knaben.

Resume.

Un cas de carcinome épidermoïde du premier degré à partir d'un ptérygion chez un garçon de 17 ans.

References.

1. Reese, A. B.: Tumors of the eye; p. 24 (Paul B. Hoeber, New York 1951). – 2. Ash, J. E. and Wilder, H. C: Amer. J. Ophthal. 25: 926–932 (1942).