

Giant Skin Tag

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ABSTRACT

Skin tags are common skin colored, asymptomatic pedunculated tumors with smooth surface, located usually at the neck, axillae or groin. The average diameters of these lesions are around 2 mm, but larger lesions, called giant skin tags are reported rarely in the literature. We report a 59 year old woman with giant skin tag measuring 12 cm in diameter at shoulder region which is not a common site of this tumor.

Key words Skin tag, Giant, Pedunculated.

INTRODUCTION:

Skin tags also called fibroepithelial polyp or soft fibroma occur as three types: 1) Multiple small papules of 1-2 mm long, 2) Single or multiple filiform smooth growth, about 2 mm wide and 5 mm long, 3) Solitary baglike, pedunculated form usually about 1 cm in diameter.¹ Although skin tags involve nearly 46% of the general population, there are only a few case reports of giant skin tags in the literature.² Skin tags are commonly found at the neck, axillae, or groin.³ A case of giant skin tag of shoulder region is reported here because of its rarity, unusual location and past history of renal cell carcinoma.

CASE REPORT:

A 59 year old woman with past history of nephrectomy due to renal cell carcinoma 6 years ago, admitted with a gradually enlarging mass at shoulder region. The excision biopsy was performed under local anesthesia, and the specimen was sent for histopathology to rule out any malignancy.

The specimen received in pathology laboratory consisted of a pedunculated mass of 12 cm in diameter, having stalk of 3x2 cm (Fig I). Cut surface was yellow and showed fat consistency (Fig II). Microscopic examination revealed fibrofatty tissue lined by epidermis on surface (Fig III).

The macroscopic and microscopic features were consistent with the diagnosis of giant skin tag.



Figure I: Large pedunculated mass



Figure II: Yellowish cut surface

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DISCUSSION:

Skin tag is the most common fibrous lesion of the skin and presents as a soft skin colored to slightly hyperpigmented lesion, predominantly on the neck, axilla and groin, but may be scattered elsewhere.^{3,4}

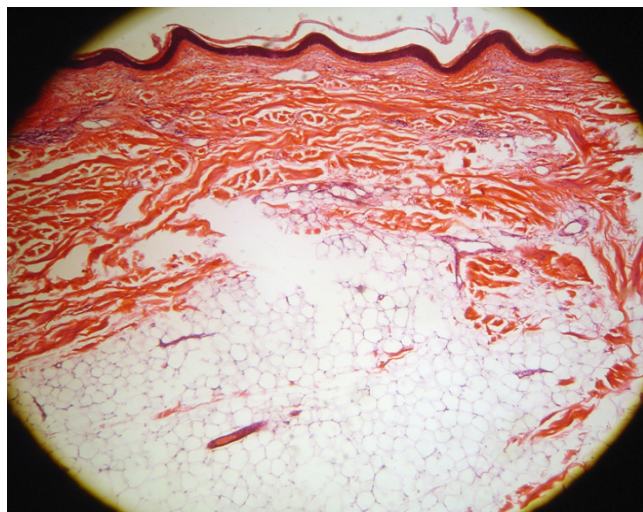


Figure III: Fibrofatty tissue lined by epidermis (× 40)

They are usually asymptomatic but can occasionally become painful secondary to irritation or torsion and infarction with an accompanying change in their color to a darker red-brown hue.³ In our patient, the lesion occurred at shoulder region which is an uncommon site of occurrence of this tumor. It was skin colored and asymptomatic, too. Relationship of skin tags with impaired glucose tolerance, obesity and colonic polyps has been pointed out in some studies.^{3,5} Men and women are equally affected and close to 50% of all individuals have at least one skin tag.³

In fact, skin tags are more of a cosmetic issue than a clinical concern.³ Both electrocautery and cryotherapy are usually curative.² Simple excision is needed in case of large lesions.² In our patient simple excision was performed, because of large size of the lesion.

Histologically, skin tags are polypoid lesions which show papillomatosis, hyperkeratosis and acanthosis.¹ Connective tissue stalk is composed of loose collagen fibers and often contains dilated capillaries.¹ The larger lesions show flattened epidermis and mature fat in the center.¹ In our case, the lesion composed of fibrofatty stroma lined by flat epidermis. Also, the stalk composed of fibrotic tissue.

As there are only a few case reports of giant skin tags in the literature so it could be recommended to keep in mind the diagnosis of the giant skin tag in the differential diagnosis of any bulky skin tumor.^{3,4}

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