



Epidermal Cyst - Breast

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ABSTRACT

An elderly female presented with mass in the left breast since 08 months without any other relevant history, which was firm in consistency. The mass was excised thinking it to be a malignant lesion. Histologically, showed keratin filled material. Due to rarity of this lesion, the case is reported with review of available literature.

INTRODUCTION

Epidermal cysts are most common in the scalp and in the skin of the neck and back. They are rarely found in other areas, including the skin of the breast.[1] However, when such a cyst occurs in the breast tissue it may initially be misdiagnosed as a benign or a malignant tumour.

Epidermal cyst is a very unusual extremely rare lesion in the breast. The incidence of occurrence of these lesions is 0.01%, when compared to other cystic diseases of breast. It is noticed after middle age. Most important fact is that, these clinically mislead the clinicians for a malignant tumor and they possibly have malignant potential in due course.

CASE REPORT

A 65 years old female, presented with lump/mass in the left breast, since 08 months. There was no relevant history except for mass. No history of trauma or pain etc.

On examination, a mass of 8 cms size was present in left lower quadrant of breast, which was soft to firm in consistency and there was no tenderness or fixity. The patient was subjected for surgery and excised the mass and sent for histopathology. Pathologic examination: The specimen was globular, well capsulated mass of 08cms in diameter, which was cystic in nature. On section, a unilocular cyst with thick capsule, which consisted of sticky greasy pultaceous material.? No other features noticed. On microscopy, multiple sections studied showed thickened capsule made up of fibrocollagenous tissue, inner side showed a thinned

out epidermis with pools of keratin material only, without evidence of malignancy.

DISCUSSION

Epidermal cysts in the breast tissue are extremely rare today, yet "sebaceous" cysts and "dermoid" cysts of the breast resulting from epidermoid metaplasia in fibroadenomas were commonly described at the end of the last century.[2]

Breast is a modified sweat gland, where one can see a gamut of disease process like benign to malignant lesions, along with cystic diseases commonly fibrocystic changes and its variants. But epidermal cysts in breast are a very unusual and rare entity. It can occur at any age group. Kwak JY, et al, reported a case of epidermal cyst in 23 years female[3]. They also vary in size and presents as a mass in either one of the breasts. Radiologically, these are well defined, circumscribed, solid, avascular mass [3,4]. Cooper RA (1996) noticed epidermal cyst in male breast once again which is very unusual.

These are extremely rare lesions, where the initial diagnosis was incorrect or misdiagnosed by the clinicians [5,6.] It is noticed that these lesions which are rare but when occurs; the consequences can be severe and be resected, because they possibly have malignant potential [3,6]. Although epidermal cysts are benign, they may play a role in the origin of the rare squamous carcinoma of the breast, as suggested by Hasleton and colleagues.[7]

In literature, some authors feel that this type of lesions may be

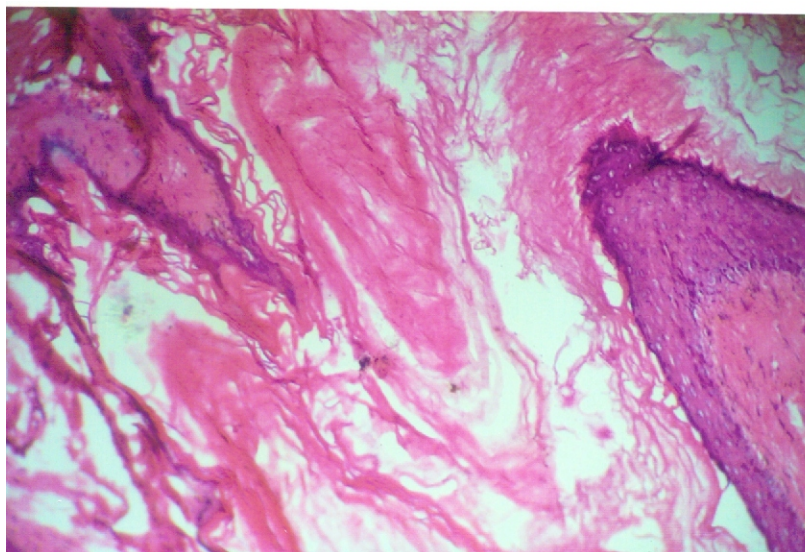


Fig. 1: Epidermal cyst of breast, histologically showing thin epidermal epithelium and pools of keratin material (H & E Stain. 150X)

caused after certain procedures like core biopsy or fine needle aspiration biopsy, but definite etiology is still uncertain. The clinicians may misdiagnose this type of lesion and excision biopsy is a must, where these show microscopically thinned out epidermis with pools of keratin material only.

CONCLUSION

Epidermal cyst in breast is an uncommon lesion, which mimics as malignant tumor and misleads the clinicians. Hence histopathological examination plays a vital role in establishing the accurate diagnosis. Also this entity should be included as one of the differential diagnosis in case of mass/lump in breast.

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