



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

## SCALP TUMOURS – A COLD HEEL TO COLD STEEL APPROACH

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**Introduction:** Tumours of scalp are commonly encountered in a dermatological practice. But a dermatosurgeon is usually wary of performing surgeries on scalp. Scalp presents with a wide array of benign to malignant tumours arising from epidermal, dermal, subcutis, & appendageal structures.

**Objectives:**

- 1) To study the range of scalp tumours, clinically & histopathologically.
- 2) To familiarise with various surgical techniques for scalp tumours.

**Materials and Method:** All 144 patients with scalp tumours were either subjected for biopsy & later excision, or for excisional biopsy and histopathological examination. Data of such cases over 18 months is being presented.

**Results:** Of the 106 male & 38 female patients, majority belonged to age-group of 21-30 years. Youngest patient was 2 years while oldest was 90 years. Histopathological diagnosis revealed lesions ranging from benign appendageal tumours to malignant tumours, with a correlation of 62%. Commonest tumours were sebaceous cyst and pilar cyst. Rarer tumours like xanthoma, schwannoma, eccrine porocarcinoma, eccrine spiradenoma, hemangioendothelioma were also diagnosed.

**Conclusion:** Scalp tumours are encountered commonly in a dermatosurgery practice. A biopsy/excisional biopsy should always be considered to establish accurate diagnosis. Biopsies may sometimes throw surprises by revealing rare tumours. However, a wide range of surgical procedures need to be employed depending upon the size, site, & nature of tumour. Turning a cold heel for management of scalp tumours may prove detrimental to the patients. Hence a cold steel approach is advocated.

