GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

TWO DIFFERENT VARIANTS OF SYRINGOMATA IN TWO SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS

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Background: Syringoma is a benign adnexal neoplasm of eccrine lineage more commonly seen in females. In 1987, Friedman and Butler had classified syringomata into four types (1) localized, (2) generalized which includes multiple and eruptive, (3) familial and (4) associated with Down syndrome. Eruptive syringoma is a rare variant. Familial eruptive syringomas have been reported in past. Mode of inheritance is mainly autosomal dominant although germ line or somatic mutations have also been reported.

Observation: A 16 year old girl presented with a two year history of multiple, small, asymptomatic skin colored lesions on her chest, sides of the neck and around her eyes. The lesions had started on her chest. She had a history of successive crops of similar lesions. Her mother had similar lesions on her face, since adolescence but no history of recurrent crops of lesions. On examination, both had morphologically similar lesions but with a different topographic distribution. They had multiple, tan to flesh-colored, flat-topped to dome shaped papules 2-4 mm in size. The daughter had it on the upper chest and neck and around the eyelids while the mother had lesions only on her face. There was no other cutaneous or systemic abnormality in either of them. The mother consented for a biopsy but she refused the same for her daughter. The biopsy revealed multiple ducts, lined by two layers of cuboidal epithelium, and filled with amorphous eosinophilic debris. Some of the ducts had a characteristic comma shape giving rise to a ‘tadpole’ appearance. On clinicopathological correlation, a diagnosis of localised syringoma in the mother and eruptive syringoma in the daughter was made.

Key message: Previous case reports of familial syringomas have reported the same variant of syringoma in successive generations. However in this case, two different variants of syringomas were seen in two generations.