



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

PILOMATRICOMA OF UNCOMMON PRESENTATION: CASE SERIES

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Background: Pilomatricoma, also known as Malherbe's calcified epithelioma, is a benign tumor originated from the cells of the follicle matrix. It occurs more frequently during childhood and the first years of adolescence, and slightly predominates in females. The most common clinical presentation is a papule or nodule, usually solitary, most frequently located on the head, neck and upper limbs, with normal or bluish color overlying skin. Upon palpation, a nodule with a faceted surface is evident. The diagnosis is suspected due to clinical and ultrasound characteristics, but must be confirmed with histopathological findings. Main complication is bacterial superinfection. The treatment of choice is surgery.

Observation: We present 4 patients (2 men and 2 women), with ages comprised between 7 and 12 that complained of painless, hard to elastic skin tumors of 1.5 to 7 cm of diameter. The first case had an exophytic erythematous infraorbital tumor, the second one presented a brown plaque in the parotid area, the third patient had two lesions (a nodule and a papule) in the left arm, and in the fourth case, two tumors covered by a large blister in the right upper limb and a small nodule in the cheek were detected. In cases 1 and 2 dermoscopic findings suggested pilomatricoma. The ultrasound showed findings compatible with pilomatricoma in 3 of the 7 lesions studied. The incisional biopsy of all lesions confirmed the diagnosis of pilomatricoma and surgical treatment was indicated.

Key message: The clinical diagnostic accuracy rate of pilomatricoma is around 33%. A high index of suspicion is required, especially when dealing with lesions with atypical presentations, such as those herein presented. Dermoscopic and sonographic findings, help to guide the diagnosis, although it is definitively confirmed by the histopathological study.

