



EPIDEMIOLOGY

CYSTS OF FOLLICULAR ORIGIN, A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: Trichilemmal cysts correspond to common lesions of the skin that occur in areas which have high density of hair follicles, whose etiology is mainly the trauma of the pilosebaceous unit, constituting the most common cystic lesions of the scalp, affecting about 5-10% of the world population. They are mostly benign, although a variant corresponding to 2%, called proliferating trichilemmal cysts, have been described as locally aggressive.

Objective: The objective of the study was to retrospectively analyze the results of scalp biopsies of lesions clinically corresponding to cysts (trichilemmal or epidermal), and unusual locations were characterized for trichilemmal cysts, in order to describe gender, age and location.

Materials and Methods: A total of 514 cases of trichilemmal (422), epidermal (83) and proliferating trichilemmal (9) cysts were included in this study, from the computer records of 3 health centers (2 public centers and 1 private center) from January 2010 to December 2018. Clinical details such as age, gender, location of cysts, as well as some histopathological details were considered for the study.

Results: The results obtained showed higher prevalence of trichilemmal cysts in women 63.99% (270/422), average age of presentation with 43 years old, main location in the scalp (69.90%) and, secondly, facial and cervical with 8.51% (43/505). An important result to note is that of the total number of biopsies 1.8% was reported as a proliferating trichilemmal cyst or with focal dystrophic calcification, which is a marker for this type of cyst.

Conclusions: Trichilemmal cysts are usually asymptomatic lesions, but they can motivate patients to consult for pain or infection. The higher prevalence in women may be due to the tendency of this gender to consult more and more precociously. Differential diagnoses of scalp cysts includes lesions that have features suggestive of malignancy such as proliferating trichilemmal cyst.

