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Giant Pendulous Fibroma Arising on the Areola

Sir,

We here describe a patient with a giant fibroma of the pendulous grape-like variety on the areola.

CASE REPORT

A 43-year-old woman consulted our department because of a tumor on her left areola. According to the patient, the tumor had appeared at this site about 8 years earlier. It had gradually enlarged and become pedunculated.

Physical examination showed a black-brown-colored, elastic soft, pedunculated tumor, 6 × 3 × 3 cm, on the patient's left areola. The tumor was composed of multiple nodules and therefore looked like grapes (Fig. 1). The tumor, including the stalk, was resected.

Histopathologically, the epidermis showed irregular acanthosis. Proliferation of mature collagen bundles and numerous dilated capillaries were observed in the dermis.



Fig. 1. A pedunculated grape-like mass, about 6 × 3 × 3 cm in size, on the left areola.

DISCUSSION

Pedunculated fibroma is a very common benign connective tissue tumor. Although any part of the skin may be affected, the most frequent sites of involvement are the eyelids, neck and axillae. Most lesions are some millimeters in diameter; however, they occasionally become very large.

The tumor in our case arose on the areola and clinically showed a large grape-shaped mass. There have been a few reports of fibroma on the nipple or areola (1), but these tumors were smaller than that of the case presented here. We believe that our case is rare as regards both location and size.

To our knowledge, most of the reported cases of giant fibroma have been limited to the genital lesions, i.e. the scrotum (2) and labium majus (3, 4).

The skin in the genital region and areola is more extensible than that in other sites, so the tumor tends to become larger, and its stalk is elongated owing to the weight of the tumor. In addition, the location of the tumor may lead to delayed presentation because of shyness on the part of the patient. We think that these anatomical and mental factors are the major cause of the unusual clinical appearance of our case.

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