

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Sweat Gland-like Cutaneous Hyperplastic Capillaries: A Neglected Phenomenon

Sir,

The interesting article about the digital verrucous fibroangioma by Kohda & Narisawa (1) raises the question of the origin of the ectatic vessels in the middle and lower dermis. The hyperplasia of sweat gland-like structures suggests that these ectatic vessels might have developed from sweat gland-like hyperplastic capillaries. As far as I know, hyperplastic cutaneous capillaries similar to sweat glands were described by Gans & Steigleder (2) in the capillary haemangioma for the first time. Later, I described them in the haemangiopericytoma, the haemangioliomyoma, cutis marmorata congenita (3), and other diseases (4). Their existence leads directly to the question whether so-called "eccrine angiomatous hamartoma" (5) is a nosologic entity. Without trying to answer this question definitely, I would like to show that my inquiry into this question is justified. In the eccrine angiomatous hamartoma described by Donati et al. (6), the haemangiomatous channels, recognizable owing to red cells, contain vacuoles, amorphous material, and partitions which all are incompatible, in my interpretation, with fully formed functional haemangiomatous channels. Their histopathological patterns are compatible, however, with the hypothesis that the channels in question are formed by a degeneration and necrosis of the supposedly eccrine glands. Indeed, these manifest degenerative changes such as cell swelling, pycnotic nuclei, and vacuolization. One even hesitates whether in some channels the dark spots represent pycnotic nuclei or erythrocytes (in the lower right corner

of Fig. 2). Consequently, I believe that these channels are not eccrine ones but formed by epithelioid endothelial cells.

I would like to ask Kohda & Narisawa whether they were always able to distinguish the dilated vessels from genuine sweat glands and whether eventual intermediate forms were not present in their material.

#### REFERENCES

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