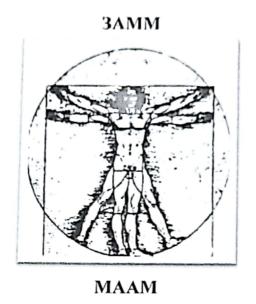
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CASE REPORT

TREATMENT OF PILOMATRIXOMA IN PEDIATRIC POPULATION – OUR EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Background: Pilomatrixoma is a type of benign tumor most commonly diagnosed in people under the age of twenty. It usually occurs at the passage of hairy parts of the body and is associated with hair follicles. It accounts for 1% of all benign tumors. The symptomatology varies according to the location of the tumor, however most are isolated and non-symptomatic. Rarely, pilomatrixoma can become malignant after the age of twenty. Tumor size over 10 cm increases the possibility of malignant alteration. Complete surgical excision of the tumor is recommended.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to clinically analyze three cases of pilomatrixoma and to attract attention to this tumor in the differential diagnosis and its treatment in pediatric patients.

Material and methods: In a two year period, from 2018 to 2020, pilomatrixoma was found in three patients aged 5 to 14 years (average age 6 years). Two of them were asymptomatic. Pain as a symptom occurred in one patient who had visible whitish papillary tumefaction, located at the apex of the neck and the right retroauricular region of the head, with an uneven inflamed surface fused with the surroundings. Plain radiography and ultrasound were performed routinely in all patients, and MRI was indicated in one patient. The differential diagnosis included epidermoid cysts and dermoid cyst. Wide excision of the tumor with 2cm resection margins with primary skin closure was performed in all patients. Benign pilomatrixoma was confirmed in the histopathological findings in all patients. No recurrences were reported.

Conclusion: Because of possible cancerous alteration later in life, pilomatrixoma should be diagnosed in early age and treated with complete and wide surgical excision. The prognosis for isolated pilomatrixoma is good. Unless the excision was incomplete, pilomatrixoma don't recur.

Keywords: benign tumor, hair follicles, pilomatrixoma, pediatrics

INTRODUCTION

Pilomatrixoma is a benign cutaneous tumor differentiating towards the hair matrix of the hair follicle. It was first described by Malhebre as benign calcifying Epithelioma [8]. It accounts for 1% of all benign skin tumors. Approximately 50% of the lesions occur on the head and neck area, especially the cheek and the preauricular area, and are not associated with symptoms other than local. Lesions can also occur on upper and lower extremities in 22%. This tumor can occur in any age group, but the most common is around 20 years of age or younger [1]. Most studies report a slight predominance in females.

Usually is presented as firm, non-tender subcutaneous mass adherent to the skin but not fixed to the underlying tissue. It's covered by normal or hyperaemic skin and varies in size from 0.5 to 3cm, but rarely giant lesions up to 15cm are reported. Pathognomonic clinical signs for pilomatrixoma diagnosis are "tent sign" (multiple facets and angles in stretched skin over