Dermoid cyst of the glans penis in a toddler

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DESCRIPTION

Dermoid cysts are true hamartomas that occur when skin and skin structures become trapped during fetal development. The present paper describes a toddler with a dermoid cyst in glans penis which is extremely rare. We present a Caucasian toddler who had an important painless progressively increasing swelling of the glans penis dating back to early infancy. It was thought of a smegma cyst and when the foreskin became completely retractile at the age of 4 years, it became apparent that actually it was a lesion well below the covering epithelium of the glans penis in the midline (figure 1). On examination, a subepithelial well-circumscribed firm non-tender mass on the dorsal aspect of the midline of the glans penis covered by the fully retractile prepuce was present. There was no punctum, sinus or a fistula discharging pus or urine (figure 2). Laboratory tests, urine dipstick and microscopy and culture were negative. Ultrasound scan showed a well-defined cystic lesion with echogenic material filled in the lumen and a possibility of a dermoid cyst, a hamartoma or a sarcomatous slow-growing variant lesion was considered. At excisional biopsy a thick-walled cystic lesion in the subepithelial tissue of midline of glans was shelled out easily. His postoperative period was uneventful and at follow-up the wound has healed primarily. Cut section showed putty-like material. Histopathology examination revealed identification of a cyst having the epithelial lining and skin appendages (figure 3). A dermoid cyst of the glans penis in children has not been reported previously in the literature.¹⁻³ It is congenital but may present later and mimic other lesions as was considered in our case. It may mimic a solid slow-growing sarcomatous lesion as the glans is compact and a tense cyst simulates a firm mass. Dermoid cyst of penis skin and not of the glans penis was described for

Figure 2 Side view of the glans dermoid cyst.

Figure 3 Microphotograph of the cyst showing cyst lining and skin appendages.

the first time in a young Caucasian man by Tomasini *et al.*⁴

Figure 1 Clinical photograph showing top view of the dermoid cyst of the glans penis.

Learning points

- ▶ Congenital lesions of the glans penis may present later on in life and may mimic a smegma cyst or hamartomatous lesions or sarcomatous ones clinically or on imaging.
- ▶ Midline masses on the glans or penile shaft should raise a suspicion of a dermoid or an epidermoid lesion in children.
- ▶ Surgical exploration and excision with gross appearance and cut section together with histopathology confirms the diagnosis and the prognosis is excellent.

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