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BILATERAL CHONDROMA OF THE AURICLE

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*Bilateral Chondroma
of the Auricle*

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CASE REPORT

Bilateral Chondroma of the Auricle

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CASE REPORT

Abstract. Benign extrasosseous cartilaginous lesions are uncommon and favor mainly the soft tissues of the hands and feet. We report a case of chondroma of both auricles. This localization has not been previously reported in the literature.

INTRODUCTION

A case of chondroma of both auricles is reported. Such tumors are relatively common in the bones, especially the finger bones.¹⁻⁵ The extrasosseous form (Table 1) is uncommon (about 200 cases reported in the literature) and favors mainly the soft tissues of the fingers and toes.⁶⁻⁸ The age of onset is usually between 30-60 years of age. The case presented here is of particular interest because of the exceptional localization of the tumor. We were unable to find any analogous reports in the literature.

CASE REPORT

A 25-year-old male came to us in March 1985, presenting two small bilateral tumors of the pinnae. The lesions had appeared 5 years before and had grown slowly, although very little, since then. Familial and clinical histories were negative. Physical examination showed on the left scapha and anti-helix a small, elongated, tautly elastic tumor (6.0 × 3.0 mm), covered by apparently healthy skin with a smooth surface and undefined margins (Fig. 1). On the right scapha, near the helical border, we detected another small tumor (2.0 × 1.0 mm) covered by healthy skin, with better defined margins than the other tumor and a fibroelastic consistency, as if there were cartilage thickening. The lesions were completely asymptomatic.

Upon incision of the left auricle, the cartilage surface was irregularly swollen. Inside there was a kidney-shaped, cystic recess with a whitish granular wall containing a thready, mucous fluid (Fig. 2).

TABLE 1
Extraskeletal Chondroma

Localization*	(%)
Fingers	80
Hands } Toes } Feet } Trunk }	20
Lung } Gut } Other }	Rare

*Most frequently found on tendon, tendon sheath, and joint capsula

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The tumor on the right pinna was solid and uniform in shape. These naked-eye aspects substantiated the different clinical appearance of the two lesions.



FIGURE 1. Tumor of the left auricle; clinical feature.



FIGURE 2. Tumor of the left auricle; note the kidney-shaped cystic recess.



FIGURE 4. Tumor of the left auricle; histologic finding: well evident typical chondrocytes (high magnification).

On histologic examination, hyaline cartilaginous tissue, rich in typical chondrocytes, was found inside the elastic cartilage of the auricle (Fig. 3). The chondrocytes were uniform in size with evident small nuclei (Fig. 4); they were gathered in isogenous groups in some fields, with frequent mitotic figures. The specimen from the left pinna showed pseudocystic aspects (Fig. 3). There were small lacunae without separate walls. These features were absent in the specimen from the right ear (Fig. 5).

DISCUSSION

On the basis of the data referred, we made a diagnosis of extraskeletal chondroma. The lesions are typically single, only exceptionally bilateral,⁹ and are comprised of small tumors, usually hard, but sometimes tautly elastic with a cystic aspect. In about 2/3 of the cases, histologic examination shows



FIGURE 3. Tumor of the left auricle; histologic finding: see the hyaline cartilaginous tissue, rich in typical chondrocytes, with pseudocystic lacunae (low magnification).

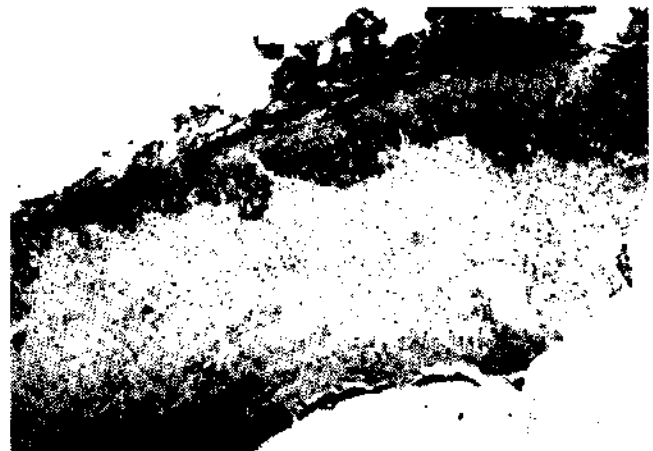


FIGURE 5. Tumor of the right auricle; histologic finding: the pseudocystic aspect is absent.

a mature hyaline cartilage¹⁰ whose structure is sometimes altered by focal fibrosis (fibrochondroma), ossification (osteochondroma), or myxoid transformation (myxochondroma). In the other third of the cases, focal or diffuse calcification may convert the original shape of the lesion, masking its cartilaginous origin.^{6,10} In conclusion, the present case is particularly worthy of attention because (1) the localization of the lesions is previously unreported, (2) bilateral lesions are uncommon, and (3) we found mature hyaline cartilage in the elastic cartilage of the auricles. This latter feature supports the opinion of many authors¹¹⁻¹⁷ that chondroma is a hamartoma.

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