

PILOMATRICOMA

A pilomatricoma is a fancy name for a benign cystic growth. This type of growth is often found in the head and neck region. Pilomatricomas are cysts made of hair precursor cells. They are benign and harmless and should not cause you any concern. These types of cysts can develop in people of all ages but the majority occur before the age of 20. They are slightly more common in women. It is one of the most common cystic growths in children and young adults. Often times these are discovered by parents while bathing their children or in adolescence when showering or changing because these are felt underneath the skin.

Pilomatricomas tend to have a firm consistency. It may appear as a pea or grape sized lump below the surface of the skin. In some cases they are flesh colored. In others, they take on a red or purple appearance. Only a small percentage of pilomatricomas become tender or inflamed.

These lesions often occur on the head and neck area, however they can occur on any area of the body. In most cases they are single, isolated lesions. Rarely, patients can have more than one. They are not associated with any internal problems. They are not premalignant.

At times tests are done to confirm the diagnosis because it may not be possible to be sure of the diagnosis by examining the lesion. In many cases surgical removal is suggested because of symptoms produced by the growth or external irritation.

Again, a pilomatricoma is a benign type of cystic growth which is most common in children. The treatment is determined individually based on the symptoms, but often simple removal is the best option.