

### **STEATOCYSTOMA MULTIPLEX**

Steatocystoma multiplex is a long and fancy name for a harmless benign condition in the skin. The first part of the term, steatocystoma, refers to a specific type of benign cyst. The second part of the term, multiplex, refers to the fact that there are usually multiple lesions present.

Steatocystoma multiplex is characterized by clusters of small, tiny benign cysts in the skin. These range in size from a few millimeters up to half an inch in diameter. A cyst is a growth characterized by a small pea-like lesion below the surface of the skin. When squeezed, the cysts sometimes exude white-yellow fluid. Steatocystoma-type cysts can appear virtually anywhere on the skin but are more commonly found on the upper part of the body including the chest, neck, abdomen, and back. Steatocystoma multiplex is primarily an inherited condition; however, many cases have been reported where there is no apparent inheritance pattern. The lesions usually first appear in teenagers or in young adults.

The individual cysts are usually not painful and usually do not cause any symptoms. Occasionally, individual lesions may rupture underneath the skin and produce some slight redness around the cysts. In most cases, steatocystoma multiplex is not treated since there are a large number of lesions and each individual cyst would require surgical removal and/or drainage. If an individual cyst is bothersome then this can be treated in the appropriate way, depending on the specific situation.

Again, steatocystoma multiplex is a condition characterized by multiple harmless benign cysts. It is not a sign of any internal problem. If you have any other questions regarding this condition, please do not hesitate to ask me before you leave the office.