SYRINGOMA

A syringoma is a benign growth. The term is derived from syringo, which describes a portion of a normal duct that occurs in the skin. Syringomas frequently occur close together in small groups around the eyes and the upper cheek. They can occur in other areas of the body, particularly the forehead, armpits, upper chest, abdomen and groin. Usually these measure about 2 or 3 mm, and are flesh colored or yellow bumps. Sometimes they appear “pimply”. They are more common in women than in men. They often form after puberty. They are benign and never turn cancerous. The cause of syringomas is not known. They do have a tendency to occur in families, which indicates there is a genetic tendency for their growth. In other words, if you have syringomas there is a fairly good chance that someone else in your family has them as well. In general, these growths are not associated with any internal problem.

Usually, syringomas do not cause any symptoms. Since they are a growth, they are permanent. With time they can slightly enlarge. They do not have a cancer potential and they cannot be spread by touching. Some patients are concerned about the visual appearance of the growths. There are various ways to remove syringomas and I can discuss the options with you. The potential benefit of removal however must be weighed against the potential for scarring that can result depending on the location and the number of syringomas that are removed.

Again, syringomas are benign growths and in most cases, require no treatment. If you have any other questions regarding these lesions, please do not hesitate to ask before you leave the office.