



## Vulvar Syringomas Occurring in a 6-Year-Old Child

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### Abstract

Syringomas or hidradenomas are benign adnexal tumors derived from the deep intraepidermal portion of eccrine sweat ducts. They appear at puberty or in the third to fourth decade. We report an original observation of vulvar syringomas in a 6-year-old girl with familial character.

**Keywords:** Syringomas; Vulvae; Hidradenomas

### Introduction

Syringoma is a benign tumor derived from the excretory duct of the eccrine sweat gland clinically revealed by small papules of a few millimeters in diameter often asymptomatic and frequently localized on the lower eyelids. The vulvar localization that we report is rare.

### Observation

A 6-year-old girl, with no notable pathological history, consulted for slightly pruritic vulvar lesions evolving since the age of 4 years (Figure 1). The history revealed the notion of similar lesions on the patient's mother and the older sister but in different location. Dermoscopic examination revealed a homogeneous yellowish area without structures, with linear vessels surrounding it without penetrating inside (Figure 2). A biopsy with histopathological examination of one of the lesions showed glandular structures embedded in a fibrous stroma, associated with cellular trabecula realizing a tadpole appearance. The wall of the ducts was lined by a double row of epithelial cells and containing a colloidal substance (Figure 3).

### Discussion

Syringomas are benign cutaneous tumors developed at the expense of the excretory duct of the eccrine sweat glands. They are rarely isolated, often multiple, sometimes even eruptive, and appear in numbers of several dozen in a relatively short period of time [1]. They are more frequent in women and usually appear during puberty, although some lesions may appear later in the fifth or sixth decade [1,2]. They are most often located on the lower eyelid and Malar regions [1,3]. Other sites of predilection are the cheeks, trunk, thighs, armpits and abdomen [3]. Vulvar localization, as in our patient, is less frequent and often unrecognized [3-5]. Clinically, they appear as small papules of a few millimeters in diameter, flesh-colored, clear or pigmented, symmetrically distributed [6]. These papules are most often asymptomatic, but sometimes pruritic, especially on the vulva or during physical exertion. Their size may increase during physical exertion and hot baths, but also during the premenstrual period, during pregnancy and when using oral contraceptives [3,4]. This suggests that syringomas may be hormone-dependent [7]. The presence of familial cases supports

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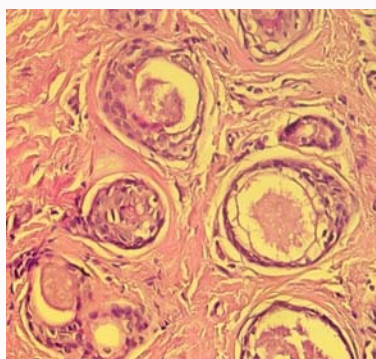
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Figure 1: Slightly itchy lesions on the vulva.



**Figure 2:** Yellowish lesion without structures, with vessels surrounding it without penetrating to inside.



**Figure 3:** Presence of luminous structures bordered by two cellular foundations associated with small epithelial cords.

a genetic theory, but the pathogenesis of syringomas is poorly understood [1]. The early age of onset in our patient before puberty can be explained by the familial character. Histology shows solid cell cords and small cystic cavities in the dermis, bordered by a double cell base, which sometimes have a small epithelial extension giving the characteristic racket or tadpole appearance [8]. Immunostaining is not helpful. Syringomas express progesterone receptors, which may explain the occurrence of eruptive forms during pregnancy. They specifically express keratin 77 but not keratins 8 and 18 found in the secretory portion of the gland [9]. These benign lesions usually remain stable or may sometimes disappear spontaneously.

Treatment of syringomas is usually not necessary and therapeutic abstinence is possible. However, because of the aesthetic demand, treatment options include dermabrasion, electrodesiccation, Carbon Dioxide laser (CO<sub>2</sub> laser) alone or combined with trichloroacetic acid, cryotherapy, and topical retinoids with varying degrees of success. Dermatoscopy of syringomas has been rarely reported in the literature and the most frequently reported dermoscopic sign is a homogeneous, structureless, ivory-white or yellowish area with irregular and ill-defined margins, surrounded in some cases by linear vessels that are poorly branched at the periphery that surround it without penetrating inward as a crown [10].

## Conclusion

Our observation is original by two points: the early age of occurrence and the vulvar localization which is rare.

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