

Read Item - Epidermal Naevus

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Abstract: Doctor's resource on Epidermal Naevus

Epidermal Naevus

Introduction

An epidermal naevus is a circumscribed, congenital, hamartomatous malformation of the epidermis.

Clinical Features and Investigation

Epidermal naevus including linear verrucous epidermal naevi, naevus unius lateralis and ichthyosis hystrix may occur on the scalp and be associated with permanent alopecia. Rarely basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas may complicate these. Epidermal naevus syndrome is the association of neurological, ocular and skeletal abnormalities with an epidermal naevus

Histology classically shows hyperkeratosis, papillomatosis, acanthosis with hypergranulosis and basal hyperpigmentation. Many variations of this classical histology are recognised and include epidermolytic hyperkeratosis, porokeratosis-like change, acantholysis, psoriasiform and lichenoid changes.

Management

None is usually required. If small, surgical excision may be feasible. They tend to recur after dermabrasion, cryosurgery and carbon dioxide laser ablation.

Key Points

Epidermal naevi on the scalp may produce localised permanent alopecia.
