

Pilomatrixoma

What is a pilomatrixoma?

- A pilomatrixoma is a type of cyst. It is a hard lump found under the skin. It is not cancer. It is most common on the head, neck, and arms.
- It is most often one slow-growing lump, but sometimes there is more than one lump.
- It occurs more often in girls and is normally seen before ten years of age.



What causes it?

It develops from an abnormal growth of cells under the skin. The cells get hard from calcium collecting in them. Sometimes this runs in families (genetic).

What are the symptoms?

The growths may feel like hard skin over a lump. They will keep growing if they are not removed. The growths normally do not hurt unless they get infected.

How is it diagnosed?

The doctor will ask questions and do a physical exam. Sometimes, a small piece of the tissue is taken and looked at in the lab. This is called a biopsy.

How is it treated?

Pilomatrixomas will become larger if they are not removed. Most often, they can be removed with surgery. The decision to remove them is based on your child's age, size, and location of the lump, as well as your child's overall health. This is a decision that you will need to make with your child's doctor.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.