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Images in Clinical Practice

Folliculitis keloidalis nuchae leading to tufted folliculitis

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A 34-year-old male presented with firm shiny papules on the nape of the neck and scalp of 2-year duration. The patient first developed pustules at the nape of the neck and later the present firm papules [Figure 1]. A diagnosis of folliculitis keloidalis was made and the patient was treated with intralesional triamcinolone. There was improvement. During the course of time, the patient also developed pustules at other regions of the scalp which later evolved into papules. Fearing a recurrence, the patient shaved of his entire scalp hair. Later, he noticed multiple groups of hair arising from his shaved scalp where the papules had subsided. On examination, the occipital and vertex of the scalp showed multiple tufts of hair (polytrichia) arising from a single follicular opening resembling "doll's hair" suggestive of tufted folliculitis [Figure 2]. A final diagnosis of folliculitis keloidalis, leading to tufted folliculitis, was made.



Figure 1: Shiny firm papules of folliculitis keloidalis on the nape of the neck.



Figure 2: "Doll's hair" sign – multiple hairs arising from a single follicular orifice (white arrows), characteristic of tufted folliculitis.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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