

BENIGN TUMORS OF THE AUDITORY MEATUS ORIGINATING IN SKIN APPENDAGES

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Introduction. Benign nonepithelial tumors of the external auditory canal constitute a clinically and histopathologically diversified group. Lesions originating in apocrine glands which involve the external auditory canal are extremely rare.

Aim. To present cases of apocrine hidrocystoma and syringocystadenoma papilliferum of the external auditory canal.

Materials and methods. Both studied patients were admitted to the Department of Otolaryngology due to the growing sensation of “blocked” ear with progressive hypoacusis, caused by the narrowing of the left auditory canal. Physical examination revealed nodules which blocked the canal lumen almost completely. On the basis of the clinical presentation and CT examination, the patients were qualified for surgical treatment.

Histopathological examination results facilitated diagnosing the apocrine hidrocystoma and syringocystadenoma papilliferum of the external auditory canal. Follow-up examinations of both patients within 6 months from the resection did not reveal any lesions in the canals which had been operated on. Both patients regained normal hearing.

Results and discussion. In the case of both types of tumors, symptoms depend on the sizes and degrees of the narrowing of the external auditory canal. Patients most frequently report hypoacusis. Performing CT or MR examinations is essential in order to determine the nature and size of the lesion as well as for the planning of surgical treatment. The use of the CO₂ laser offers both esthetic and surgical benefits in such cases.

Conclusions. The CO₂ laser is an effective tool with respect to the radical surgical treatment of benign skin tumors of the external auditory canal. Benign tumors originating in skin appendages can lead to a progressive narrowing of the external auditory canal. The location of apocrine hidrocystoma and syringocystadenoma papilliferum in the external auditory canal is extremely rare.