

# CUTANEOUS NON-FOLLICULAR CYSTS

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## SUMMARY

Cutaneous cysts may derive from appendageal epithelium or lymphatic vessels, or may be due to developmental defects, ectopic growth of tissues, infection with parasites or other causes. The term "pseudocyst" is applied to those cystic lesions which do not show a true epithelial lining. In this article the clinico-pathologic characteristics of the main cutaneous non-follicular cysts (i.e., cysts that are not derived from follicular epithelium) are presented.

## KEY WORDS

*non-follicular cysts, histopathology, cysts, developmental cysts*

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Cutaneous cysts are enclosed spaces within the skin lined by an epithelium. They represent a wide group of lesions with different ethiology and variable histogenetic derivation. In Table 1 are summarized the main cystic lesions that can occur within the skin. Cutaneous cysts may derive from appendageal epithelium or lymphatic vessels, or may be due to developmental defects, ectopic growth of tissues, infection with parasites or other causes. The term "pseudocyst" is applied to those cystic lesions which do not show a true epithelial lining.

In what follows the clinico-pathologic characteristics of the main cutaneous non-follicular cysts (i.e., cysts that are not derived from follicular epithelium) will be shortly discussed.

## 1. NON-FOLLICULAR APPENDAGEAL CYSTS

***Eccrine hidrocystoma*** (1). Eccrine hidrocystomas are usually found on the face as small, translucent, bluish, solitary nodules. Cases with multiple lesions have also been described. Histologically they present with an unilocular cavity within the dermis lined by two layers of cuboidal epithelium with eosinophilic cytoplasm. There is no evidence of decapitation secretion. In some areas, a single row of cells is found to form the cyst's wall.

***Apocrine cystadenoma*** (2). Apocrine cystadenomas are almost invariably solitary lesions located on the face or the neck. However, rare cases with multiple

