

## APOCRINE EPITHELIUM WITHIN A TRICHILEMMAL CYST

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### SUMMARY

The trichilemmal cyst, or pilar cyst, is typically lined by an epithelium that keratinizes in the manner of the outer root sheath of the hair follicle. Occasionally, aberrant histology may be present in the cyst wall. We present a trichilemmal cyst, the wall of which shows continuity with apocrine epithelium. This finding, which to our knowledge has not previously been reported, may represent an embryonic remnant.

### KEY WORDS

*trichilemmal cyst, pilar cyst, embryonic remnant, apocrine remnant, combined cyst, skin neoplasm*

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The trichilemmal cyst, or pilar cyst, is a common benign cyst that usually develops on the scalp (1). Histopathologically, it exhibits keratinization typically seen in the outer root sheath of the hair follicle at the level of the follicular isthmus. At times, careful examination of a cyst wall can reveal aberrant histologic structures co-existing with the cyst. We report the occurrence of apocrine epithelium in continuity with the epithelium of a trichilemmal cyst.

### CASE REPORT

A 42-year-old white man presented to the Dermatology Clinic at the New Jersey Medical School, complaining of a solitary scalp nodule of several years duration. The lesion had slowly enlarged, but was otherwise asymptomatic. The patient had previously

undergone excision of lipomas on his chest and buttock. There was no prior personal or family history of cysts. The patient was in good health.

On physical examination, there was a firm, slightly mobile, non-tender subcutaneous nodule on the mid-frontal scalp, which measured approximately 8 millimeters in diameter. No punctum was evident. The lesion was felt to represent a pilar cyst and surgical excision was performed.

### HISTOPATHOLOGY

Microscopic evaluation revealed a dermal cyst with no identifiable epidermal connection. The majority of the cyst wall was composed of stratified squamous epithelium, which had a peripheral layer of germinative cells and lacked a granular layer. The lumen of the cyst was filled with compact, laminated, eosinophilic

