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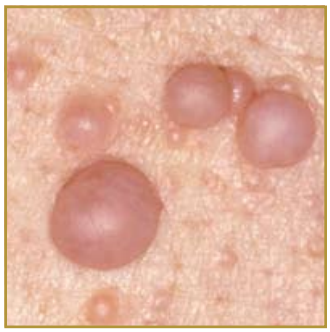
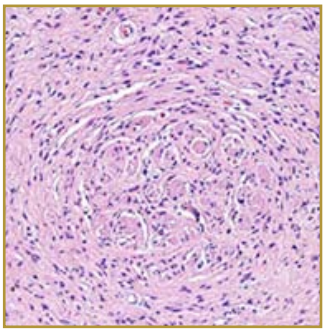
Neurofibroma





EPIDEMIOLOGY: One lesion per 25,000 adults in the United States
ETIOLOGY: Unknown, NF1 gene predisposes patients to multiple neurofibromas
PATHOGENESIS: Neural tumor that can evolve from a papule to a nodule or polyp
CLINICAL: Soft pedunculated tan papules
HISTOLOGY: Transformed Schwann cells with wavy contours and ovoid to elongated nuclei with fine dense heterochromatin

Neurofibroma is a type of benign nerve sheath tumor, a class of tumor of the nervous system, which is comprised of myelin surrounding nerves. Neurofibromas may affect any nerve in the body but frequently grow on spinal nerve roots. The papules can appear as single lesions or multiple lesions. When presented with multiple lesions they are associated with Neurofibromatosis type I. Neurofibromatosis I is a genetic disorder also known as von Recklinghausen disease. These lesions present as soft pedunculated tan papules, which in the setting of neurofibromatosis can number in the hundreds. Currently there is no known treatment that can stop the progression of neurofibromas, the lesions can be surgically removed or the size can be reduced by radiation therapy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Neurofibromatosis" (Online). February 2003. http://www.merck.com/mmhe/sec06/ch088/ch088d.html (visited: April 8, 2008)