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P38- INVERTED PAPILLOMA IN A RUSSIAN HAMSTER

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Introduction: Cutaneous papilloma is a benign epithelial neoplasm arising in epidermal keratinocytes. Papillomaviruses belong to the papovavirus family, causing single or multiple verrucous projections, variable in size, well circumscribed and keratinized. This type of tumour is common in horses, cattle and humans; it is less frequent in dogs and goats and rare in sheep, pigs, cats, guinea pigs and hamsters.

Case history: An 18-month-old intact Russian hamster presented with a right lateral axillary subcutaneous ulcerated nodule. No other abnormalities were detected on clinical examination. The approach taken was total surgical excision.

Material and Methods: Specimens were fixed in 10% buffered formalin solution for histological evaluation and referred to the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory, Agrarian Superior School of Viseu, in Portugal.

Results: At gross examination, the cut section revealed a radial arrangement of whitish tissues converging on the ulcerated area. Microscopic examination revealed a cystic cavity, lined by apparently-inverted hyperplasic squamous epithelium, together with ortho and parakeratotic hyperkeratosis forming a feather-like pattern. Epithelium displayed acanthosis, hypergranulosis and large keratohyalin granules. Koilocytosis was also observed, as well as sparse eosinophilic intracytoplasmic bodies, in cells exhibiting ballooning degeneration.

Discussion and Conclusion: While the histopathological features observed were consistent with papilloma, the uncharacteristic inverted image of the epithelium, producing keratin convergent to the cystic cavity, which assumed a feather-like appearance, fits with reported descriptions of inverted papilloma, although this type of tumor, especially of such large dimensions, has apparently never been reported hitherto in hamsters.