

# Cutaneous Horn of Prepuccial Skin on Pre-existing Lichen Sclerosus in a Young Male: A Rare Presentation

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## ABSTRACT

Cutaneous horn of penis is rare. Cutaneous horns are generally found over sun exposed areas of body after fifth decade of life. Penile horns are hyperkeratotic lesions which are secondary to chronic irritation. Hereby, the author reports a case of a young male with cutaneous horn over phimotic prepucial skin with lichen sclerosus which was successfully treated by circumcision.

**Keywords:** Circumcision, Penile, Premalignant

## CASE REPORT

A 24-year-old unmarried male, presented with pruritis, thickening and whitish discolouration of penile foreskin for two years and a lesion over it for one year. The lesion had gradually tripled in size after first being noticed one year back. Patient also gave history of non retractability of prepucial skin since childhood. There was no history of surgery or trauma and patient was sexually not active. He had taken treatment in form of steroid cream for local application and antihistaminic without much relief.

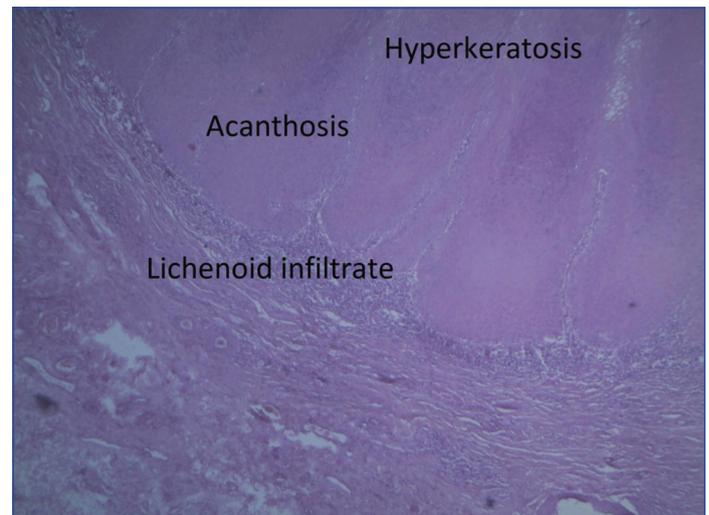
Physical examination revealed a 2×1 cm conical horn like light coloured hard lesion over ventral aspect of prepucial skin [Table/Fig-1]. There was thickening and white discolouration of inner aspect of prepucial skin and mucosa, suggestive of lichen sclerosus. The prepuce was minimally retractable. There was no induration around the lesion and the lesion was localised over the prepucial skin, glans was free of any lesion. There was active tinea cruris infection in both groins. There was no palpable inguinal lymphadenopathy. Systemic examination was within normal limits.



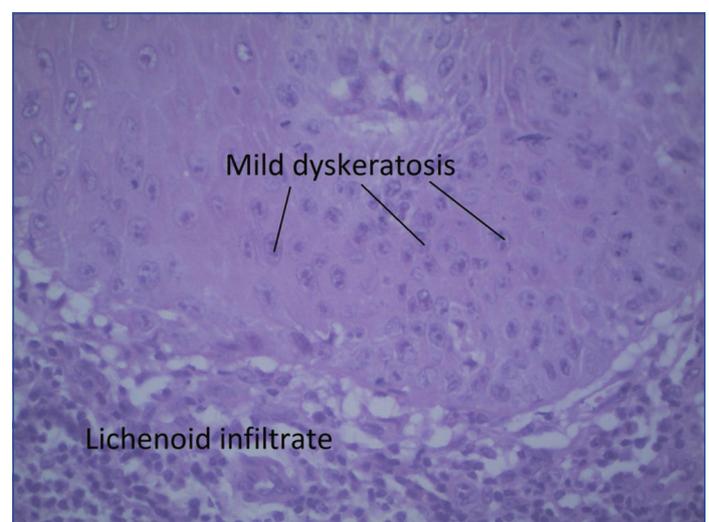
**[Table/Fig-1]:** Clinical Photograph showing penile cutaneous horn with lichen sclerosus over prepuce.

Based on clinical diagnosis of cutaneous horn of penis with lichen sclerosus, circumcision was done with adequate skin margin. Postoperative recovery was uneventful. Histopathology report revealed pigmented epidermis showing acanthosis, hyperkeratosis

[Table/Fig-2] and dyskeratosis [Table/Fig-3] with a single vertical pillar of a cellular thick keratinous layer with lichen planus and lichen sclerosus [Table/Fig-4]. There was no evidence of malignancy. Patient was followed for a year and has been asymptomatic.



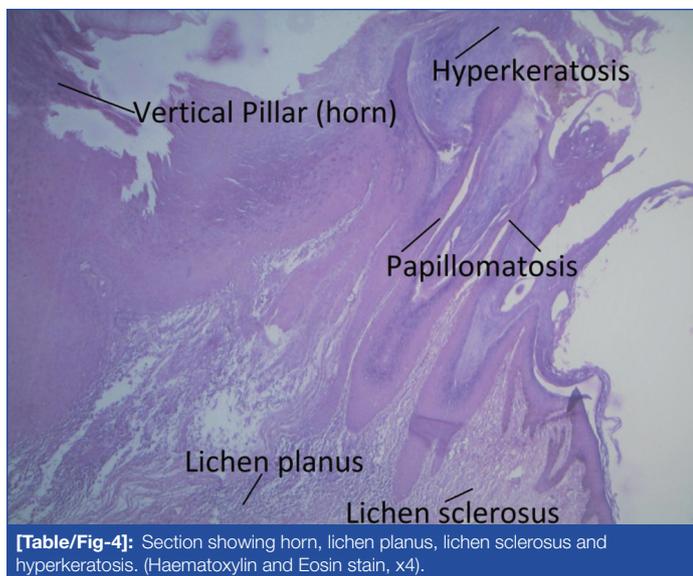
**[Table/Fig-2]:** Section showing acanthosis, hyperkeratosis and lichenoid infiltrate. (Haematoxylin and Eosin stain, x4).



**[Table/Fig-3]:** Section showing dyskeratosis (Haematoxylin and Eosin stain, x40).

## DISCUSSION

Clinically, cutaneous horn is a term used to describe conical hyperkeratotic protrusion above skin surface which mimics horn of



**[Table/Fig-4]:** Section showing horn, lichen planus, lichen sclerosus and hyperkeratosis. (Haematoxylin and Eosin stain, x4).

an animal [1]. Cutaneous horns are not uncommon in light exposed areas of body however they are uncommon over covered areas and are unusual and rare over penis [1,2]. The earliest case of cutaneous horn documented was of an elderly woman from Wales in 1588 and was conceived as natural body anomaly while the first penile cutaneous horn was reported in 1854 [2]. Penile cutaneous horn is rarely reported in medical literature since first case reported more than one and half century back [1]. Long standing Lichen sclerosus has been associated with development of penile cutaneous horn [3]. It is a worrisome condition for patient for organ disfigurement and the clinician as it may be a window to serious underlying pathology. As nearly one third of the penile cutaneous horns are associated with malignancy, prompt surgical intervention is warranted [4,5].

Fahmy MAB has described preputial cutaneous horn as a rare prepuccial anomaly [6]. Cutaneous horn is not a pathological diagnosis but a morphological designation of dense cohesive keratinised material forming a cone like structure without underlying bone [4]. Aetiology of cutaneous horn is not clear however various factors like viral infection, chronic irritation, surgical trauma, long standing phimosis, malignancy or radiation therapy have been implicated [1,4]. Penile cutaneous horns have been shown to be associated with pre-existing lichen sclerosus [3]. Penile lichen sclerosus is most common in age group 30-49 years while the penile cutaneous horns are common in males aged above 50 years, however it has been reported in young males as well, though rarely as in present case [2,7]. Prabhakar G and Bhat A reported a case of prepuccial cutaneous horns in 22-month-old child and was successfully treated with circumcision [8].

Lowe FC and McCullough AR in their study reported that penile cutaneous horns may be benign in 42-56% cases, premalignant in 22-37% cases or malignant in 20-22% cases [5] while a study by Yu RC et al., on review of histopathology of 643 cases of keratinous

horns reported 61.1% to be benign, 23.2% to be premalignant and 15.7% were malignant [9]. The European Association of Urology (EAU) 2009 guidelines have classified penile lichen sclerosus and penile cutaneous horn as a premalignant lesion [10]. As penile cutaneous horns are premalignant lesions, definitive management involves surgical excision with prudent histopathological examination of specimen and long term follow-up, as postcircumcision recurrences and malignant transformations on long standing lichen planus have been reported. If histopathology report of specimen is suggestive of malignancy then penectomy (partial or total) is recommended [1,4]. Although electrocauterisation, laser and cryosurgery have been described as effective therapies, they alter histopathology of lesion hence, not preferred [1]. The index patient was managed with circumcision and postoperative recovery and follow-up has been uneventful.

## CONCLUSION(S)

This is a rare case of prepuccial cutaneous horn in a young male, developing on long standing phimosis with lichen sclerosus, as a probable aetiology. The patient was treated with circumcision and histopathology report was confirmatory of keratinous horn with lichen sclerosus. After a year of follow-up, the patient has been asymptomatic. Cutaneous horn is a premalignant lesion, definitive management and follow-up is necessary.

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