ABSTRACT: Cutaneous horn is a conical projection of hyperkeratotic epidermis of skin. The cause of keratin accumulation is unknown. But it is postulated radiation can trigger these lesions, as they are seen more on exposed parts of the body. Cutaneous horn is more a clinical diagnosis as the lesions show only keratinous epidermis. They may originate over preexisting skin diseases like warts, molluscum contagiosa, actinic keratoses, seborrheic keratoses, squamous cell carcinoma. In this patient only abnormality is high serum uric acid. No other underlying pathology was found. This case is unique as association of cutaneous horn with high uric acid was not found in literature.

KEYWORDS: Cutaneous horn, Serum uric acid.

INTRODUCTION: Cutaneous horn are conical growths on skin.(1) It is hard in consistency and may become big enough to be called as giant cutaneous horn, resembling a animal horn. Patients presenting with these lesions are evaluated for other under lying skin conditions like verruca, seborrheic keratoses, actinic keratosis and most importantly for malignancy like squamous carcinoma.(2) In this case. The only abnormality is high serum uric acid levels. The lesion was excised from base and specimen was sent for HPE, which showed only keratinous accumulation in epidermis, no specific pathology was found.

CASE REPORT: A 45 years old man presented with a conical growth on his forearm below cubital fossa on flexor aspect. There is no itching or pain. The lesion is of 3months duration. History of pain in great toes and treatment for Gout, but patient was irregular in treatment. No constitutional disturbance. Clinical examination showed a concical hyperkeatotic projection from normal looking skin. The lesion measured 1.25cm (1/2inch) at base and 2.5cm (One inch) height. On palpation lesion is hard in consistency. There is no erythema, induration or ulceration of surrounding skin or at the base. Physical examination showed no other abnormality. Blood examination showed no abnormality except for raised serum uric acid levels of 8.68mg%.

DISCUSSION: Giant cutaneous horns are keratinous growths on the skin appearing as conical structure, with hard consistency, and smooth surface. The size of lesion vary from few millimeters to many centimetereers, resembling an animal horn. They can occur anywhere on the body.(3) About 30% of lesions arise over face and scalp.

They may be associated with underlying skin disorders like seborrheic keratoses, lichen planus, molluscum contagiosum or neoplasia like squamous cell carcinoma.(45,6,7) So its mandatory to check for any other underlying pathology(8) in and around the base of lesion and for lymphadenopathy of that area. In this patient, the lesion showed no thickening of surrounding skin. It is situated near to cubital fossa on flexor aspect of forearm, peculiar, in that these lesions have prediliction to extensor aspect. The horn itself is not adherent to the underlying dermis. No lymphadenopathy was found.
Histopathology showed keratinous epidermis and no changes were seen in dermis. Presence of lesion on flexor aspect of forearm and high serum uric acid are unique features in this case. The lesion was excised with radio frequency and simple closure of the wound was done.

Absence of underlying pathology and increased serum uric acid levels in this case, suggests further studies in that angle.

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Cutaneous horn near to left cubital fossa 2.5 cms height

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