

A rare case of adult xanthogranuloma of the vulva

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What is a Xanthogranuloma?

- A rare, benign, smooth, firm skin lesion
- Often seen on head, neck or upper body
- 90% seen in young children i.e. juvenile xanthogranuloma, 10% are adult xanthogranulomas
- Caused by excess of histiocytes
- Classified as a non-Langerhans Cell Histiocytoses (class IIa)

Following our literature search, this is the **second ever reported case** of vulval adult xanthogranuloma



Fig 1: Child with juvenile xanthogranuloma

What was this patient's journey?

- 55-year-old woman was referred to the specialist vulval clinic with an atypical, left vulval lesion
- It started as a small papule two months earlier and gradually increased in size and bled on contact, prompting referral
- Lesion was located on the upper left labia, approximately 10x10mm in size, with normal overlying skin
- Histopathological examination of the punch biopsy taken in clinic revealed adult xanthogranuloma
- Patient proceeded to surgical excision whereby diagnosis was confirmed
- The surgical margins were clear

Learning points:

Xanthogranulomas are benign lesions usually seen in children, presenting on the upper body.

They are thought to be caused by an excess of histiocytes.

Unlike juvenile xanthogranulomas, adult xanthogranulomas do not commonly resolve spontaneously and hence surgical excision should be offered.

Histological diagnosis is essential and clear surgical margins are required to prevent local recurrence.

Reporting of rare conditions is important to allow for accumulation of evidence to provide guidance for future cases.

This case report aims to raise awareness of adult xanthogranulomas with particular attention paid to vulval xanthogranulomas.