

## Warty Armpit Growth

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A six-year-old male presents with a warty growth in his armpit which was present as a flatter lesion at birth. It is asymptomatic and he is otherwise healthy.

### What is your diagnosis?

A linear epidermal nevus is a congenital hamartoma that arises in early childhood. It can present on the trunk, neck, or extremities and appears in a linear formation. It often begins flat and then develops a raised, warty proliferation of the epidermis. This lesion can be classified into:

- localized (most common),
- systemic (epidermal nevus syndrome), or
- inflammatory (inflammatory linear verrucous epidermal nevus).

The histology shows papillomatosis and acanthosis, often similar in features to a seborrheic keratosis.



Figure 1. Warty armpit growth.

Excision to the level of deep dermis will remove these lesions; more superficial treatments will result in recurrence. Occasionally, liquid nitrogen cryotherapy, electrofulguration or laser ablation are employed.

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