



## “I don’t like this ugly red spot on my nose.”

Benjamin Barankin, MD

A 34-year-old female presents with a six month history of an asymptomatic red papule on her nose. She is otherwise healthy, on no medications and has no history of skin cancer.

### 1. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- Angiofibroma
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Angioma
- Venous lake

### 2. The presence of several of these lesions would make you worry about?

- Multiple endocrine neoplasia I
- Rosacea
- Tuberous sclerosis
- Neurofibromatosis
- Both a and c

### 3. How could you treat this lesion?

- Shave excision
- CO2 laser
- Potent topical steroids
- Wide resection with 5 mm margins
- Both a and b

Angiofibroma, also called fibrous papule of the face, is a benign tumour of fibrous tissue, in which there are abundant dilated small and large vascular channel with numerous histologic variants. They present as erythema-



tous papules, typically on or near the nose. The presence of numerous angiofibromas should alert to the possibility of tuberous sclerosis, also called adenoma sebaceum (misnomer) in tuberous sclerosis.

The differential diagnosis includes fibrofolliculoma, trichoepithelioma and trichodiscoma.

Angiofibromas can be treated with ablative lasers such as the erbium: Yag (yttrium-aluminum garnet) laser or CO2 laser, or vascular lasers. Shave excision can be effective and electrocautery is effective, although it may leave more scarring than the other options.



“Case in Point” is a series of interesting cases and diagnoses to help general practitioners sharpen their skills. Submissions and feedback can be sent to [diagnosis@sta.ca](mailto:diagnosis@sta.ca).

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