



Red Growth on the Finger

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A 33-year-old female who recently gave birth to her first baby noticed a small red growth on her fingertip near the end of her pregnancy which has recently grown larger. It bleeds every few days without much trauma. It is otherwise asymptomatic and she is very healthy.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- Verruca vulgaris
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Merkel cell carcinoma
- Irritated cherry angioma
- Atypical fibroxanthoma

2. What factors put a person at risk of this lesion?

- Pregnancy
- Oral retinoid intake
- Protease inhibitor intake
- Chemotherapy
- All of the above

3. How could you manage this lesion?


- Shave excision
- Laser ablation
- Curettage and electrodesiccation
- Cryotherapy
- All of the above

Pyogenic granuloma (PG) is a benign vascular tumour and misnomer as it is neither infectious or granulomatous. It is particularly common in children and young adults as a red, glistening nodule that is prone to bleeding and ulceration.



Figure 1. A small red growth on the fingertip.

A PG usually develops over a few weeks time and is especially common during pregnancy or while taking medications such as oral retinoids, protease inhibitors, or chemotherapy. Trauma may also play a role. Dermatoscopic evaluation by a dermatologist can be helpful in the diagnosis and occasionally histopathology is needed to cinch the diagnosis.

Treatment is typically by shave excision and electrodesiccation. Lasers are occasionally used, as is cryotherapy. Many lesions that develop during pregnancy will resolve on their own with parturition. 

Answers: 1-b; 2-e; 3-e

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