

# GIGANTIC TRICHILEMMAL HORN

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## ABSTRACT

A case of a gigantic cutaneous horn of trichilemmal type on the scalp of a young woman is described. Although trichilemmal horns are observed quite frequently, this striking incurved cutaneous horn represents an exceptional example of this entity.

## KEY WORDS

trichilemmal horn, giant, case report

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## INTRODUCTION

Cutaneous horn is a clinical description and not a specific clinical or histopathologic diagnosis. The term cutaneous horn should be applied, when the height of the keratotic mass amounts to at least half of its diameter (2). Cutaneous horns usually are of conical shape and less than one to few centimeters long, being observed in any part of the body, most frequently on the face, followed by scalp, forearms, trunk and genitalia.

We report upon an extraordinary long incurved horn on the scalp of a female patient, which on histopathologic examination revealed on the base of the cutaneous horn multiple, partly opened, trichilemmal cysts.

## CASE REPORT

A 55-year-old unmarried, mentally healthy Caucasian woman presented a slowly growing "indurated tumor" on her scalp for almost thirty years, when she was admitted at the Department of General Surgery, "Umberto I" Hospital in S. Marco in Lamis (Italy).

She never complained of pain or any symptoms other than discomfort and private personal feeling of stigma and "shame", letting the horn reach 25 cm in length at the time of the first medical observation (Fig. 1).

For such a long time she hid the horn among her long hair and beneath a dark veil on the head, which she had practically always been wearing during the daytime.

