

4.3.2 Pilomatricoma

Synonym: Calcifying epithelioma of Malherbe

Definition Benign adnexal tumor with follicular differentiation and tendency towards calcification

Clinic Solitary firm dermal nodule usually in head and neck region. More common in children and adolescents

Histopathology

- Circumscribed nodular epithelial lesion in the deep dermis
- Basaloid tumor cells, with transition to pale-staining or necrobiotic central area (shadow cells)
- Deposits of calcium salts and even foci of ossification in the central portion
- Reactive inflammatory infiltrate with multinucleated giant cells throughout and around tumor

Differential diagnoses

■ **Basal cell carcinoma**

No shadow cells, clefting between basaloid tumor cells and stroma

■ **Trichoblastoma**

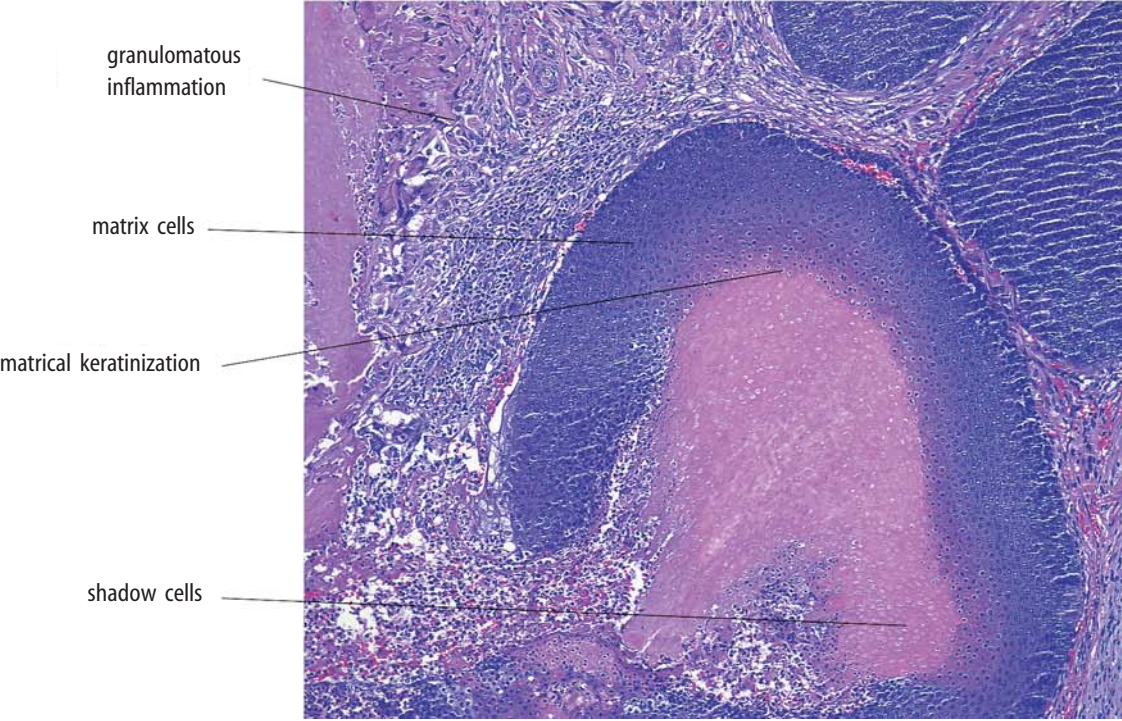
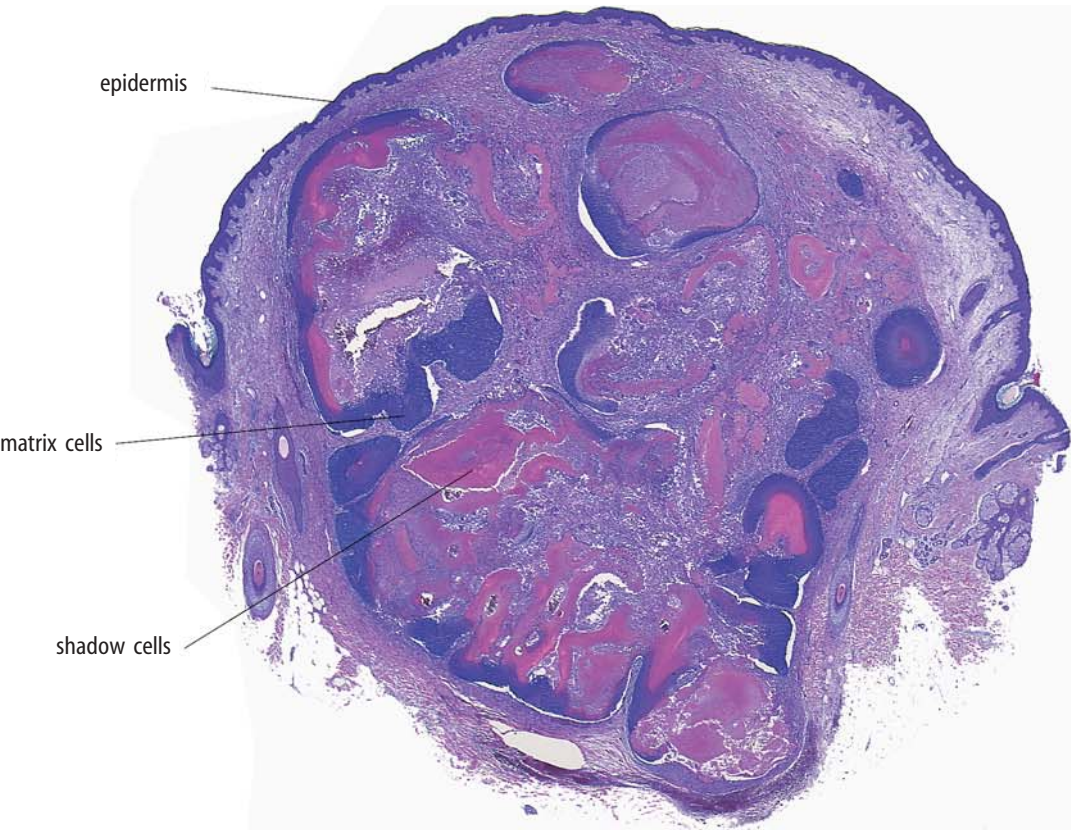
Basaloid tumor nodules with foci of hair germ differentiation. No calcification or shadow cells; cell-rich tumor stroma

■ **Osteoma cutis**

Ossification without hints of residual pilomatricoma (shadow cells, basaloid tumor cells)

Comment

In older lesions, the basaloid tumor cells may be hard to find, so the picture is dominated by shadow cells. Pilomatricoma is one of the most common precursors for solitary osteoma cutis, so when confronted with cutaneous bone, always look for residual signs of this lesion. Pilomatrical carcinoma should be suspected when there are numerous mitoses or true necrosis.



Dermatopathology

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