An awkward looking pilomatrixoma

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Abstract
Pilomatrixoma is a rare and benign skin tumor of the hair follicle that tends to develop in the head and neck area. We report a case and briefly review the literature.

Case Report
This 30 year old gentleman who was treated for suspected pulmonary tuberculosis four years previously, presented to the plastic surgery clinic with a 3cm x 2cm, erythematous, fluid filled lesion on the left neck which had been growing for five months. On examination, the skin lesion had an underlying palpable 3cm mass. An ultrasound scan showed this to be a cystic lesion. Infectious diseases were consulted in view of the fact that this might have been cutaneous tuberculosis. However, fluid aspirates showed no signs of tuberculosis and an incision biopsy was indicative of a pilomatrixoma. The histology report from the complete excision came back as: “The specimen contains a benign pilomatrixoma”.

A pilomatrixoma is also known as a pilomatricoma or a benign calcifying epithelioma of Malherbe. It is an uncommon slow growing benign adnexal skin tumour with a differentiation towards hair cells.

Figure 1: Bullous pilomatrixoma on the left shoulder

References
2. Cao HL, Chen JS, Yan JL, Wang JY. Pilomatricoma with a bullous appearance. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol 2015;81:77-8