

# Porokeratotic adnexal ostial nevus: a paradigm of cutaneous mosaicism

Lisa Kiely<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Ní Mhaolcatha<sup>2</sup>, Jim Fitzgibbon<sup>2</sup>, Lesley-Ann Murphy<sup>1</sup>, and Cathal O'Connor<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>South Infirmarv Victoria University Hospital

<sup>2</sup>Cork University Hospital

February 20, 2022

## Abstract

Porokeratotic adnexal ostial nevus (PAON) is a term encompassing porokeratotic eccrine ostial and dermal duct naevus (PEODDN) and porokeratotic eccrine and hair follicle naevus (PEHFN). We present the case of a seven-year-old girl who presented with hyperkeratotic verrucous papules in a blaschkolinear distribution on the sole of her left foot.

DR LISA KIELY (ORCID iD 0000-0003-1100-8692)

DR SARAH NÍ MHAOLCATHA (ORCID iD 0000-0003-1831-4553)

DR JIM FITZGIBBON (ORCID iD 0000-0002-3899-8510)

DR LESLEY ANN MURPHY

DR CATHAL O'CONNOR (ORCID iD 0000-0001-7084-5293)

Case report

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Kiely L, <sup>1</sup> Ni Maolcatha S, <sup>2</sup>Fitzgibbon J, <sup>2</sup> Murphy LA, <sup>1</sup>O'Connor C, <sup>1,3</sup>

1 Department of Dermatology, South Infirmarv Victoria University Hospital, Cork

2 Department of Pathology, Cork University Hospital, Cork, Ireland

3 Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland

## Corresponding author:

Dr Cathal O'Connor

Department of Dermatology, South Infirmarv Victoria University Hospital, Cork

Email: [drcathaloconnor@gmail.com](mailto:drcathaloconnor@gmail.com)

Conflict of interest: None

Financial disclosure: None

Word Count: 581

Figure Count: 2

Reference count: 5

Key words: PAON, PEODDN, Porokeratosis, Mosaicism

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient to publish this report in accordance with the journal's patient consent policy

## Introduction

Porokeratotic adnexal ostial nevus (PAON) is a term that encompasses porokeratotic eccrine ostial and dermal duct naevus (PEODDN) and porokeratotic eccrine and hair follicle naevus (PEHFN).<sup>1</sup> PAON is a rare adnexal hamartoma characterized by the presence of a cornoid lamella exclusively overlying eccrine acrosyngia (the subtype known as PEODDN) or over both eccrine acrosyngia and hair follicles (the subtype known as PEHFN).

## Case report

A seven-year-old girl presented with hyperkeratotic verrucous papules in a blaschkolinear distribution on the sole of her left foot. The lesions were congenital and asymptomatic. She had a family history of atopic dermatitis but no significant past medical history. Prior to presentation, the lesions were treated with topical antifungals and salicylic acid, with no conferred benefit. On examination there were unilateral hyperkeratotic papules coalescing into plaques in a linear configuration following lines of Blaschko on the lateral border of the left sole (Figure 1).

Histopathological analysis showed columns of parakeratosis associated with scant dyskeratotic keratinocytes in the upper granular layer reminiscent of cornoid lamellae (Figure 2). A deep infiltrate involving sweat ducts was absent.

## Discussion

PAON is characterized by small discrete scaly papules arranged linearly, which may coalesce into plaques. Usually unilateral, most common sites are the palm or sole, with occasional extension onto the dorsae of the hands and feet, although more generalized eruptions have been reported.<sup>2</sup> Lesions are typically asymptomatic. The male to female ratio is almost 1:1. <sup>2</sup> PEODDN is usually a congenital phenomenon, however up to 26% of cases are reported to be late-onset, with some cases noted to develop following puberty.<sup>3</sup> PEODDN usually becomes more warty in appearance over time.

PAON is a disorder of the intraepidermal eccrine duct (acrosyngium). Histopathology is diagnostic, characterized by parakeratotic columns within an epidermal invagination appearing as cornoid lamellae. Vacuolated and dyskeratotic keratinocytes are often present and there may be loss of the granular layer. <sup>4</sup> Somatic mutations in GJB2 have been identified as causative in PAON, representing a mosaic form of keratosis ichthyosis deafness (KID) syndrome. GJB2 encodes the gap junction protein connexin26 (Cx26), which permits intercellular ion and macromolecule flux. <sup>5</sup> Previously reported cases of PAON have described coexisting problems like seizures, hemiparesis, scoliosis, deafness, developmental delay, palmoplantar keratoderma, psoriasis, hyperthyroidism, polyneuropathy, breast hypoplasia and KID.<sup>2</sup>

The differential diagnosis of PAON includes variants of porokeratosis, naevus comedonicus, epidermal naevi, viral warts, or porokeratoma. Linear or punctate porokeratosis lack the combination of cornoid lamellae with acrosyngia or hair follicle ostia, the eccrine duct hyperplasia and the thicker epidermal invagination. Naevus comedonicus and epidermal naevus (or inflammatory linear verrucous epidermal naevus) can rarely present with porokeratosis-like features, but are not related to eccrine ostia or hair follicle. Focal hyperparakeratosis, koilocytes and haemorrhagic exudates are seen in viral warts but not in PAON. In this case eccrine duct involvement was not clear on histology, but a diagnosis of PAON was favoured following clinicopathological correlation.

Current treatment options are of limited efficacy. Reported therapies include topical corticosteroids, topical salicylic acid, topical retinoids such as tazarotene, photodynamic therapy, and carbon dioxide laser. <sup>2,3</sup>

While the lesions tend to be refractory to treatment, they are usually asymptomatic and may not require intervention.

This case highlights a typical presentation of a rare condition whose clinical features are often initially subtle and can be easily overlooked. There is evidence that PAON is a manifestation of somatic mosaicism for KID syndrome and, although never previously reported, there is a theoretical risk of transmission of systemic disease to offspring.

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## Figure Legends

Figure 1. Close-up view of the left plantar foot.

Figure 2. Microscopic sections of acral skin show papillary epidermal hyperplasia with alternating parakeratosis of the stratum corneum and orthokeratosis. Columns of parakeratosis in the troughs are associated with scant dyskeratotic keratinocytes, and loss of the granular cell layer beneath columns of parakeratosis reminiscent of a cornoid lamella.



