



NAEVUS LINEARIS

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Synonyms: *Naevus unius lateris, seu nervosus, seu lichenoides; Papilloma lineare, seu neuroticum; Ichthyosis linearis neuropathica.*

This peculiar form of nevus is usually present at birth or within the first few months. It rarely appears after puberty. The characteristics of the growth are its verrucous quality and its distribution in bands, continuous or broken, sometimes appearing to follow the course of nerves, either along the limbs or transversely upon the trunk. The warty, papillary growths may be isolated and grouped, or massed together into elevated plaques transversed by deep clefts. The color varies from a light yellowish to a dark greenish brown. The lesion is

usually permanent and stationary, though it has been seen to retrogress spontaneously or undergo degenerative changes — exceptionally a malignant transformation. There is no subjective symptom except occasionally slight itching. **TREATMENT:** Some growths can be easily removed by picking up the skin and snipping off the nevus with a pair of sharp scissors, the cut being superficial and extending not quite through the skin proper, or the warty masses may be scraped off with a sharp curette; the base should then be cauterized with silver nitrate. Excision is the best method to employ with the very heavy lesions.