



NAEVUS PIGMENTOSUS

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NAEVUS PIGMENTOSUS PILOSUS

Synonyms: Pigmentary mole; Mole.

There develop upon the skin of many individuals benign tumors resulting from the hypertrophy of one or more of the cutaneous structures. Some are present at birth and undergo variable development later. They differ widely in size and arrangement. In the variety known as moles there is always increased pigmentation, generally accompanied by an overgrowth of the cutaneous glands and hairs. Many of the tumors are smooth; others assume a warty, papillary character. They may be single or multiple and situated upon any part of the body. The color varies from light brown to black. Growths the size of a bean or smaller are exceedingly common. Larger tumors in exceptional cases may cover half the trunk. These are more apt to have a furrowed uneven surface on account of the greater development of all the skin structures and the marked hypertrophy of the papillae. As a rule, moles do not change with age except that the hairs upon them

often become coarser and more plentiful. Under the stimulus of constant irritation, however, they may undergo a malignant degeneration. Very rarely does this occur without some preceding trauma. **TREATMENT:** Growths smaller than a pea are best removed by electrolysis. When the growths are of a size to make congelation feasible there is no more satisfactory method of destroying them than by the application of solid carbon dioxide. A mass of carbonic snow should be molded or whittled until one surface roughly corresponds in size and shape to that of the mole which is to be destroyed. The surface of the snow should then be dipped lightly into ether and applied quickly with firm pressure, for from fifteen to ninety seconds, according to the thickness of the growth. The blister which forms dries to a crust and the latter falls in about two weeks, leaving a pink scar that eventually becomes white and may be almost imperceptible.