A 31-year-old Korean man presented with an asymptomatic, easy-to-bleed, solitary, rapidly enlarging, and erythematous protruding skin lesion with a stalk on the posterior auricular area, which he had first noticed 6–7 weeks prior to visiting our clinic (Fig. 1). In June 2010, the patient had been diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukaemia, which was treated first with hydroxyurea and, since September 2012, had been managed with oral radotinib, 600 mg/day. The patient had no history of trauma and denied any family history of similar skin lesions. Our initial impression was pyogenic granuloma or accessory tragus. A skin biopsy showed a proliferation of small-to-medium-sized blood vessels with a cobblestone appearance of enlarged endothelial cells that projected into the lumina. A perivascular inflammatory cell infiltrate was composed mainly of lymphocytes and eosinophils (Fig. 2). The lesion has not recurred during 1-year follow-up after excision and electrodessication.

What is your diagnosis? See next page for answer.

![Fig. 1. Asymptomatic, solitary, 6–7-mm diameter, erythematous protruding nodule with a skin-coloured stalk located in the left posterior auricular region.](image)

![Fig. 2. Cobblestone appearance of enlarged endothelial cells that projected into the lumina, and perivascular inflammatory cell infiltrates composed mainly of lymphocytes and eosinophils (haematoxylin and eosin; × 400).](image)

doi: 10.2340/00015555-1628
Erythematous Protruding Skin Lesions in the Retro-auricular Area: Comment


Diagnosis: Angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia

Angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia (ALHE) is a rare angioproliferative disorder of unknown origin, characterized by solitary or multiple, usually 0.5–3 cm diameter, red-to-brown dome-shaped subcutaneous nodules, usually occurring on the head and neck, particularly in the auricular and periauricular areas, and very rarely on the extremities and trunk (1, 2). Histopathologically, ALHE shows a vascular proliferation of small vessels lined by plump endothelial cells, often accompanied by inflammatory infiltrates with numerous eosinophils and lymphocytes (1). The pathogenesis of ALHE is proposed as a neoplastic process, hypersensitivity reaction, inflammatory vascular reaction or tissue reaction to a previous trauma. Pyogenic granuloma, which is a common, benign vascular lesion, could be ruled out by characteristic histological features, showing lobular aggregates of capillaries and venules lines by plump endothelial cells with fibrous septa (3). Accessory tragus can be differentiated, in that it showed a central plate of elastic cartilage, histologically, and is usually evident at birth (4). The most common therapeutic options are surgical excision and pulsed dye laser. In addition, cryotherapy, irradiation, intralesional steroid injection, and carbon dioxide laser have been reported as therapeutic options, with variable levels of success.

The present case has unusual clinical features, with a skin-coloured stalk connecting to surrounding normal skin.

REFERENCES