**Background:** Transverse nasal crease is an uncommonly reported entity. It likely represents an embryologic fault line. Transverse nasal milia have also been reported in the same location, both as an isolated finding and in a transverse nasal crease. This observation suggests they are variants of the same entity.

**Observations:** Two cases, one of transverse nasal crease with milia and one of transverse nasal milia in the absence of a crease, are reported. A review of the literature on these rarely reported conditions was performed.

**Conclusions:** It is important for clinicians to be aware of transverse nasal creases, since they may be encountered in a dermatologic practice. Transverse nasal creases, milia in transverse nasal creases, transverse nasal milia, and transverse nasal comedones in the absence of a transverse nasal crease are likely variants of the same entity. They most probably occur because the triangular cartilage and the alar cartilage attach in a linear fashion at the junction of the middle and lower third of the nose. This produces a potential embryonic fault line in which retention cysts presenting as milia and comedones can occur. These clinical presentations merit attention because they are likely much more common than reported.

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PATIENT 2

A 5-year-old boy with a hypopigmented, horizontal line featuring milia-like papules (Figure 2) within it was referred to the Pediatric Dermatology Clinic at the Alberta Children's Hospital. The line had been present for approximately 2 years, becoming more prominent in the summer months. A few white papules had also developed in the crease but never became inflamed or irritated. The patient’s father reported having a similar problem, although the child’s older brother did not have a similar condition. The patient was using no medications and was otherwise healthy. The child did not have any known food or environmental allergies.

On examination, a hypopigmented, transverse nasal crease was noted along the lower third of the patient’s nasal dorsum (Figure 2). There was no surrounding erythema and no scale. A few small, superimposed white papules were also noted within this crease, consistent with the appearance of milia. Aside from 2 verrucae on the right shin seen as an incidental finding, the findings from the rest of the dermatologic examination were unremarkable.

COMMENT

Located at the border of the middle and lower third of the nose, a transverse nasal crease can present with a wide clinical spectrum ranging from a faint erythematous line to a hypopigmented groove with a depth and width of several millimeters.

Cornbleet first described the transverse nasal crease in 1951. He reported it as a peculiar transverse angulation crossing over the junction of the middle and lower thirds of the nose, a finding he reported in 5 girls. Cornbleet hypothesized that the origin of the “transverse nasal stripe,” or “stria nasi transversa,” arose from a defect in the normal development of the nasal cartilages from childhood to adolescence.

Anderson described 14 nonatopic patients with nasal grooves within 2 pedigrees, suggesting a genetic predisposition in the absence of allergy. He believed that these cases were inherited through a single dominant gene. An embryologic origin has been proposed by Shelley et al, who believed that the transverse nasal crease most likely occurs at the site of fusion of the frontonasal prominence and medial nasal prominence, representing an embryologic fault line.

The transverse nasal crease must be distinguished from the “allergic nasal crease,” a similar appearing line, seen in atopic patients as a result of persistent and repetitive manipulation of the nasal tip upwards (the allergic salute). Adding to this confusion is a report by Ramot et al describing cornified papules with seborrheic keratosis-like hyperplasia and horn cysts occurring in an allergic crease in a patient with allergic rhinitis and constant allergic salute sign. This appears to be the only report of papules occurring in an allergic nasal crease.

The occurrence of milia within a transverse nasal crease has been documented in a few cases reports thus far. Akinduro and Burge described a child with atopic eczema and asthma with a nasal crease containing milia since birth. Jansen et al described similar clinical findings in a 9-year-old girl. Risma and Lucky described 7 patients with pseudoacne of the nasal crease. Two of these patients had transverse nasal milia in a transverse nasal crease. Wimmershoff et al described a 10-year-old boy with a congenital transverse nasal crease containing dense milia and comedones.

In summary, there appears to be 4 case reports of transverse nasal crease without milia and 4 reports of transverse nasal crease with milia and/or comedones reported in the literature.

Transverse nasal milia in the absence of a transverse nasal crease are less frequently reported. Del-Rio et al described an 11-year-old girl with milia cysts along her nasal groove but no transverse nasal crease. Two sisters of this girl had a conspicuous nasal groove without milia. Of the 7 patients described by Risma and Lucky, 3 had transverse nasal milia in the absence of a transverse nasal crease. Piqué et al described 3 patients with trans-
verse nasal comedones (open and closed). Although described as congenital, the lesions were first noted at ages 5, 7, and 9 years. These comedones developed in the absence of a transverse nasal crease and are likely a variant of our second patient and the patients of Del-Río et al\textsuperscript{10} and Risma and Lucky,\textsuperscript{8} who had transverse nasal milia without a transverse nasal crease.

It is important for clinicians to be aware of transverse nasal creases, since they may be encountered in a dermatologic practice. Furthermore, transverse nasal creases are often asymptomatic and may be familial, requiring little intervention.\textsuperscript{4} Transverse nasal creases, milia in transverse nasal creases, transverse nasal milia, and transverse nasal comedones in the absence of a transverse nasal crease are variants of the same entity. They most probably occur because the triangular cartilage and the alar cartilage attach in a linear fashion at the junction of the middle and lower third of the nose. This produces a potential embryonic fault line in which retention cysts presenting as milia and comedones can occur. These clinical presentations merit attention because they are likely much more common than reported. In addition, the literature on these related entities has been reviewed.

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REFERENCES


Correction

Error in Signature Block. In the Editorial titled “The JAMA Network Journals: New Names for the Archives Journals” (2012;148[7]:788), published in July 2012, an error occurred in the signature block. The middle initial for Rita Redberg was incorrectly listed as “A.” Dr Redberg’s full name should read “Rita F. Redberg, MD, MSc.”