



Epidermoid Cyst

Epidermoid cysts are the common type of cyst occurring in humans. They appear as a skin-colored or pink bump, most commonly on the head, neck, and upper back, although they can occur anywhere on the skin. They do not contain oil, but contain a solid material, keratin. This is the same scaly material that forms callouses. The contents of the cysts appear cheesy and are often foul-smelling. These cysts never develop into cancer. Occasionally, they will become inflamed (red, tender, filled with pus). These are benign bumps, which often do not need to be treated. Treatment may be recommended for repeated infections in the cyst or for cosmetic reasons.

TREATMENT:

- Antibiotics – they are helpful for some inflamed cysts.
- Surgical removal – this will leave a scar and, as with all minor surgeries, there is a small risk of infection.
- Incision and drainage – sometimes the cyst wall (sac containing the contents of the cyst) can be removed through a small cut in the roof of the cyst after the contents have been emptied. However, if any of the wall is left behind, the cyst will probably regrow.