

Becker's nevus on right shoulder

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A 20-year-old male presented with a hairy, irregular, macular, pigmented patch on the right shoulder since the age of 14 years, which had increased steadily in size over 6 years. He was suspected to have melanoma and referred in view of suspicion of malignancy. He was diagnosed to have a benign condition called Becker's nevus (also known as Becker's melanosis, nevoid melanosis and pigmented hairy epidermal nevus) which is a benign skin disorder seen unilaterally over the shoulder and commonly occurring in males¹. It usually shows up at puberty and has a prevalence of 0.52% (in young French males). It occurs as a result of overgrowth of the epidermis, melanocytes and hair follicles. It was coined after American dermatologist, Samuel William Becker who first documented it in 1948. It can be confused with malignant melanoma however the treatment in this case is essentially cosmetic as it is benign in nature.

References:

- [1]. Copeman PWM, Wilson-Jones EWJ. Pigmented hairy epidermal nevus (Becker) *Arch Dermatol.* 1965;92:249–51



