



## *Epidermal Cysts*

Epidermal cysts usually occur on the face, scalp, posterior neck, and the back. Most of these cysts are formed by overproduction of keratin (superficial skin component) with no way for the keratin to get to the surface of the skin. The cells build up and form a cyst. Occasionally, epidermal cells are displaced/entrapped during embryonic development and form a cyst.

Epidermal cysts may be observed for years, often cause no trouble, and may go away spontaneously. If they become red, tender, or drain, treatment may be desirable. Antibiotics may be prescribed to decrease the inflammation. Steroids may be injected to decrease inflammation. Painful, inflamed cysts may be drained. Drainage will help symptoms but will not eliminate the cyst. There may be a large pore left at the site the skin was cut for drainage. A cyst may be removed by surgical incision only *after* the acute inflammation/infection has resolved (six or eight weeks later). Recurrence of a cyst is possible if the sac cannot be removed intact. A new cyst may also occur in the adjacent area.

### ***For Questions or Emergency Care:***

Call the office at **601-815-3374**. You may need to speak with the doctor on-call.