

BECKER'S NEVUS

A Becker's nevus is a common skin problem which is usually acquired in the teenage years. Becker's nevus is named after the doctor who first described the condition. The term nevus is a fancy medical word for a birthmark type mole. A Becker's nevus is not precancerous or cancerous. It is usually an isolated finding and not associated with any internal manifestations.

A Becker's nevus is usually found on one side of the body. It is more common in males and generally found on the upper trunk. It is usually first noticed in childhood or adolescence. It is a flat tan or darker patch on the shoulder area. It may darken with time. As the patient gets older hair may develop within the tan patch.

A Becker's nevus is basically a discolored area on the skin that is not present at birth but is acquired in life. Most people seek attention because they would like to know what it is or because of cosmetic concerns. Since it is impossible to remove these growths without scarring it is generally recommended to leave them alone. Again, this is not the type of growth which ever becomes cancerous.

You may find it interesting that Richard Gere, the actor, has a Becker's nevus that is visible in some of his movies. It is on his shoulder but usually the camera angles are such that it is hidden.

If you have any other questions about this type of growth please ask me before you leave the office