

SEBORRHEIC KERATOSES

What causes seborrheic keratoses?

Seborrheic keratoses are harmless, common skin growths that first appear during adult life. As time goes by, more growths appear. Some persons have a very large number of them. Some have very few. Seborrheic keratoses appear on both covered and uncovered parts of the body. They are not caused by sunlight. The tendency to develop seborrheic keratoses is inherited.

Seborrheic keratoses are harmless and never become malignant. They begin as slightly raised, light brown spots. Gradually they thicken and take on a rough, warty surface. They slowly darken and may turn black. These color changes are harmless

Seborrheic keratoses are superficial and look as if they were stuck on the skin. Under the microscope this type of keratosis looks like layers upon layers of skin. That is why at times the top layer may seem to fall off but the rest of the growth remains and regrows. Persons who have had several seborrheic keratoses can usually recognize this type of benign growth. However, if you are concerned or unsure about any growth, please ask me to check it.

Treatment

Seborrheic keratoses can easily be removed in the office. The main reason to remove a seborrheic keratosis is your wish to get rid of it. These reasons include its unsightly appearance, its symptoms (itching, burning), if it rubs against your clothes or jewelry, or if it gets nicked when shaving.

If any individual growth changes such as bleeding, crusting or increasing in size, then please return to have it checked.