

or spread to adjacent nodes may also be safely treated by appendectomy alone.

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ADDENDUM: After this report was written, the author observed another case of primary carcinoma of the appendix.

The patient was a 73-year-old man. He was operated on for regional enteritis and the appendix was removed incidentally. It was a rather short appendix with a diameter of 2.5 cm. It was pale in color, solid in consistency and had no visible lumen. Microscopically, mucinous adenocarcinoma confined to the appendix was observed.

The Spreading of Warts by Metal Expansion Watch Bands

A Report of Three Cases

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THE VIRUS of warts is an inoculable organism. Constant pressure as on weight bearing areas of the feet, recurring nicks in the skin such as are produced by shaving and acute and chronic trauma of other kinds appear to be in some persons the means of inducing and continuing an infestation with warts. In the cases here reported warts developed and spread where a metal expansion watch band repeatedly nicked the skin at the wrist.

CASE 1. A 45-year-old man had warts involving the left wrist and left hand and none elsewhere on the body (Figures 1 and 2). The patient had a nervous habit of pushing his watch band up and down over the wrist. Often when he did this he was aware of a mild stinging pain. In the skin area traversed by the watch band in this up and down and sideways movement there was a solid plaque of wart tissue extending across the extensor surface of the wrist. Trailing distally from this area were numerous discrete warts on the sides of the hand and thumb. It was obviously impractical to attempt removal of the large area of wart on the dorsum of the wrist. It was decided that the only therapeutic measure would be to advise the patient to discontinue the wearing of the watch. Within two months all the warts had disappeared.

CASE 2. A 35-year-old man had warts on the left wrist where the skin was nicked frequently when he slid a metal expansion watch band up and down. He said that when he wore the watch on the right wrist, warts developed there also. When he discontinued wearing the watch, all of the warts on both wrists disappeared spontaneously.

CASE 3. A 50-year-old man had warts scattered over a large area on the extensor surface of the arm from the wrist almost to the elbow. He was in the habit of pushing his watch high up on his arm when he worked. All warts disappeared spontaneously when the wearing of the metal expansion watch band was discontinued.

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Figure 1.—Watch in position above wrist bones. Note large wart plaque below watch, the linear plaque below it and the discrete warts strung out distally. (All wart tissue has been outlined with ink.)

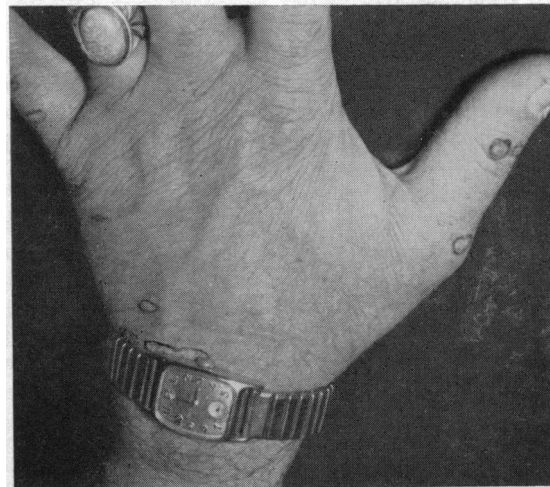


Figure 2.—Watch in position below wrist bones. The watch now covers the larger plaque. Note watch stem resting on smaller, linear plaque. Discrete warts trail away on sides of hand, the areas that are traumatized in removing watch.

COMMENT

In these three cases, appreciation of the role of the expansion metal watch-band in producing minor trauma to the hairy part of the forearm was essential to the desired therapeutic result. It is probable that if the warts had been destroyed in the ordinary way, they would have returned again and again as long as the watch bands were worn.

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