

Visual Treats in Dermatology

Smegma pearl in a young boy

Prathibha Kuchana¹, Vishal Gaurav²

¹Department of Dermatology, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, ²Department of Dermatology and Venereology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences - Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.



***Corresponding author:**

Vishal Gaurav,
Department of Dermatology
and Venereology, All
India Institute of Medical
Sciences - Central Armed
Police Forces Institute of
Medical Sciences, New Delhi,
India.

mevishalgaurav@gmail.com

Received: 16 June 2025

Accepted: 30 June 2025

Published: 24 July 2025

DOI

10.25259/CSDM_98_2025

Quick Response Code:



An 18-month-old boy was brought to the dermatology outpatient department by his apprehensive parents, concerned about a white nodule on his penis. The child was otherwise healthy, with no history of difficulty voiding. The mother denied any similar lesions elsewhere on the body or any history of trauma. The boy was born full-term to a primigravida mother through spontaneous vaginal delivery, with a birth weight of 3 kg. Local examination of the external genitalia revealed a soft, non-tender, round, and yellowish-white nodule measuring 0.25 × 0.25 cm over the foreskin, with a white cheesy material on its tip [Figure 1]. The parents were reassured and counseled about the benign nature of the condition.

A smegma pearl, also known as a “keratin pearl,” is a nodule of trapped smegma. It is a benign accumulation of smegma in the sub-preputial space, typically observed in uncircumcised boys but also reported in circumcised males.^[1] The smegma pearl appears as a yellowish-white nodule, often located on the ventral side of the glans, between the base of the glans and the sub-preputial surface. The prepuce is partially retractable, and the urethra remains unaffected.^[2] Smegma has a characteristic slimy smell and is composed of epithelial cells, fats, and proteins. The primary treatment involves reassurance and counseling, with the expectation that the nodule will resolve spontaneously over time.^[1,2] The differential diagnosis includes preputial Epstein pearls, preputial cysts, median raphe cysts, and smegma stones (smegmaliths).^[2]



Figure 1: Round, yellowish-white nodule measuring 0.25 × 0.25 cm over the foreskin with a whitish cheesy material on its tip.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, transform, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

©2025 Published by Scientific Scholar on behalf of CosmoDerma

Ethical approval: Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

Declaration of patient consent: The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

Financial support and sponsorship: Nil.

Conflicts of interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation: The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

REFERENCES

1. Almutawa YM, Bava A, Najeeb SS. Smegma pearl in a circumcised patient: A case report. *Cureus* 2022;14:e28491.
2. Baral K, Poudel S. Smegma pearl: A benign penile lesion in infants. *Clin Case Rep* 2023;11:e7613.

How to cite this article: Kuchana P, Gaurav V. Smegma pearl in a young boy. *CosmoDerma*. 2025;5:76. doi: 10.25259/CSDM_98_2025