Seborrheic Keratosis, Keratotic Type, of the External Auditory Canal
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What is This?
A 53-year-old man presented with a 4-month history of an itchy lesion in the right external auditory canal (EAC). At otoscopy, a 0.5 × 0.5-cm reddish mass with a rough surface was localized in the posterior wall of the EAC (Figure 1). The lesion was removed en bloc via an endaural approach up to the level of the bony and cartilaginous EAC. The auditory canal was reconstructed with split-thickness skin grafts (Thiersch graft1) taken from the retroauricular skin.

Histopathological examination confirming the negative resection margin revealed hyperkeratotic seborrheic keratosis (Figure 2). At the 10-month follow-up, the patient showed no sign of recurrence.

This case report was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the University “La Sapienza” of Rome, Italy.

Discussion
Clinically, seborrheic keratoses appear as solitary or multiple, round-to-oval, coin-like plaques of variable size in various anatomic structures. They have a uniform light tan to dark brown color and usually have a smooth or granular surface. They are usually painless, but sometimes they become irritating and itchy. In our case, the lesion was itchy and irritated. Although they are usually distinct from melanoma clinically, occasionally differentiating them from melanoma is a challenge.

There are several commonly recognized microscopic variants of seborrheic keratosis: acanthotic, keratotic, adenoid, clonal, reticulated, and irritated. In our case, examination revealed the keratotic type. To our knowledge, there are 4 cases in the English literature of seborrheic keratosis of the EAC,2-5 and this is the first case of the keratotic type. Because of potential disease relapse and the patient’s discomfort, we...
decided to perform a total removal and immediate split-thickness skin grafts of the EAC.

**Author Contributions**

Giuseppe Magliulo, conception and design, analysis and interpretation of data, revising the article critically for important intellectual content, final approval of the version to be published; Mario Ciniglio Appiani, acquisition of data, drafting the article, final approval of the version to be published.

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**References**