

# Collagenous Nevi

## **AETIOLOGY AND PATHOGENESIS**

A collagenous nevus is a circumscribed developmental defect of the skin, characterised by collagenous hyperplasia. The aetiology and pathogenesis are unknown.

## **CLINICAL FEATURES**

Collagenous nevi generally appear as firm, well-circumscribed, slowly enlarging nodules of the skin and subcutis, that vary in diameter from 0.5-5cm (0.2-2in)<sup>1-3</sup>. Lesions are usually multiple and are located more frequently on the head, neck, and proximal extremities. Middle-aged animals are more likely to be affected, but lesions have also been reported in younger animals. Slowly enlarging lesions localised to one area of the body have been reported<sup>1</sup>.

## **DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES**

- Other cutaneous neoplasms
- Bacterial and fungal granuloma
- Sterile nodular granuloma and pyogranuloma
- Histiocytic lesions

## **DIAGNOSTIC TESTS**

Cytology is usually non-specific, but may help to eliminate neoplasia. Histopathological examination of biopsies or excised lesions is diagnostic.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Surgical excision of the nodules is the treatment of choice in most cases. Reoccurrence occurs rapidly, at an accelerated rate, in those animals with large lesions localized to one area of the body.

## **KEY POINT**

- Behaviour can be unpredictable, but these are essentially benign lesions.