

Fibroepithelial polyp of the anus (or anal skin tag)

Also called fibrous polyp or anal tag, this is one of the most frequent anal lesions and is found at the dentate line, anal mucosa or in the perianal skin.

Fibroepithelial polyps may be associated with local inflammation such as fissure or fistula. Granulomas can be found in about one third of skin tags in cases of Crohn's disease. Others may represent the end stage of a thrombosed haemorrhoid, but remnants of haemorrhoidal vessels or signs of previous bleeding are rarely found. Most are probably of idiopathic nature as the incidence is rather similar in patients with or without anal diseases.

Grossly, the polyp is spherical or elongated with a greater diameter ranging from a few millimetres up to 4 cm. The surface is white or grey and may show superficial ulceration. Histologically, it consists of a fibrous stroma covered by squamous epithelium, which usually is a slightly hyperplastic and may be keratinized. The stroma may be more or less dense and often contains fibroblastic cells with two or more nuclei and a considerable number of mast cells. Neuronal hyperplasia is a common feature.

A non-neoplastic polypoid lesion that arises from the anal canal or perianal skin. It is composed of dense fibrous stroma and it is covered by squamous epithelium.

Synonyms: fibrous polyp of anus, fibroepithelial polyp of anus, anal tag, anus skin tag, anal fibrous polyp, fibroepithelial polyp of the anus, anal fibroepithelial polyp, fibrous polyp of the anus.

Treatment: can usually be removed by minor surgery under local anaesthetic in our rooms (see our info sheet under procedures).

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Eligibility criteria apply for Southern Cross members



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