

A Case of Multiple Auricular Piercing Keloids

Taku Maeda

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Graduate
School of Medicine, Hokkaido University, Hokkaido, Japan

We adopt a personalized, patient-specific approach to keloid treatment, selecting the most appropriate therapy for each case. Auricular keloids are common among young individuals due to ear piercings. Often, patients seek not only symptom relief but also cosmetic improvement. Here, we report a case of multiple keloids on the earlobe and auricular rim, treated using our tailored protocol.

The patient was a 23-year-old male who had pierced both ears five years before his initial visit. Two years prior to presentation, he noticed gradually enlarging nodules on his left ear. Examination revealed keloids protruding both anteriorly and posteriorly from the auricular rim, and posterior-only keloids on the auricular surface. The earlobe also showed keloids extending in both directions.

Following a site-specific strategy, we performed total excision of the earlobe keloid and used a pedicled super-thin flap for the posterior auricular rim keloid. Postoperatively, the patient received intensified steroid therapy. One year and one month later, a second operation under general anesthesia was performed using the chondrocutaneous bilateral advancement (CBA) flap technique to treat the remaining anterior-posterior keloid. Postoperative radiotherapy (20 Gy in 4 fractions) was administered. At 11 months post-CBA flap surgery, there has been no recurrence.

This case highlights the need for long-term planning in the treatment of multiple keloids. Favorable outcomes were achieved by combining surgical techniques tailored to specific anatomical sites.