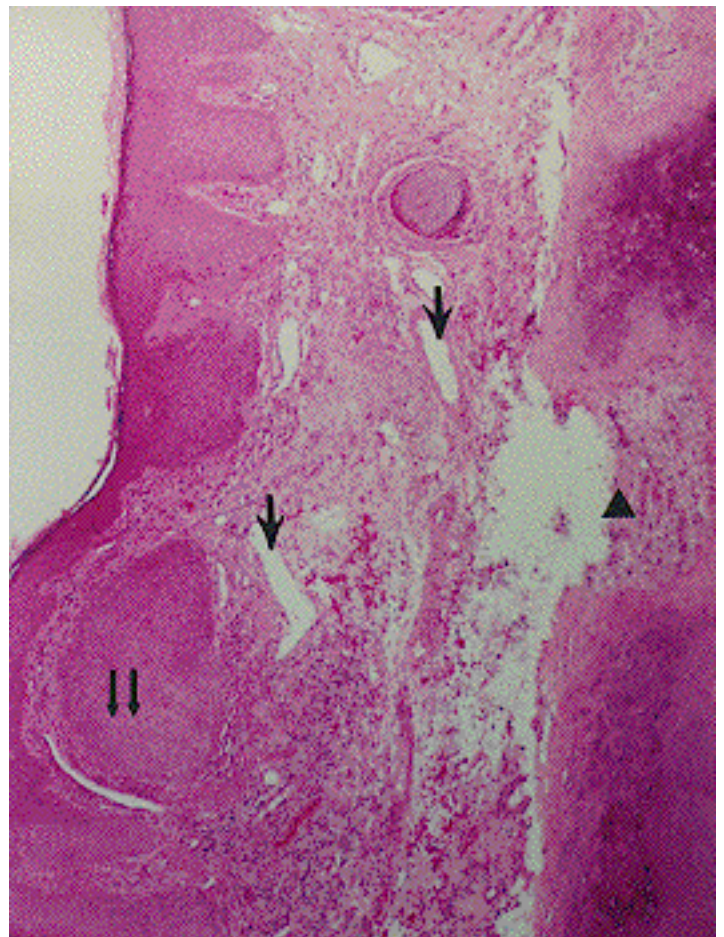


CHONDRODERMATITIS NODULARIS HELICIS

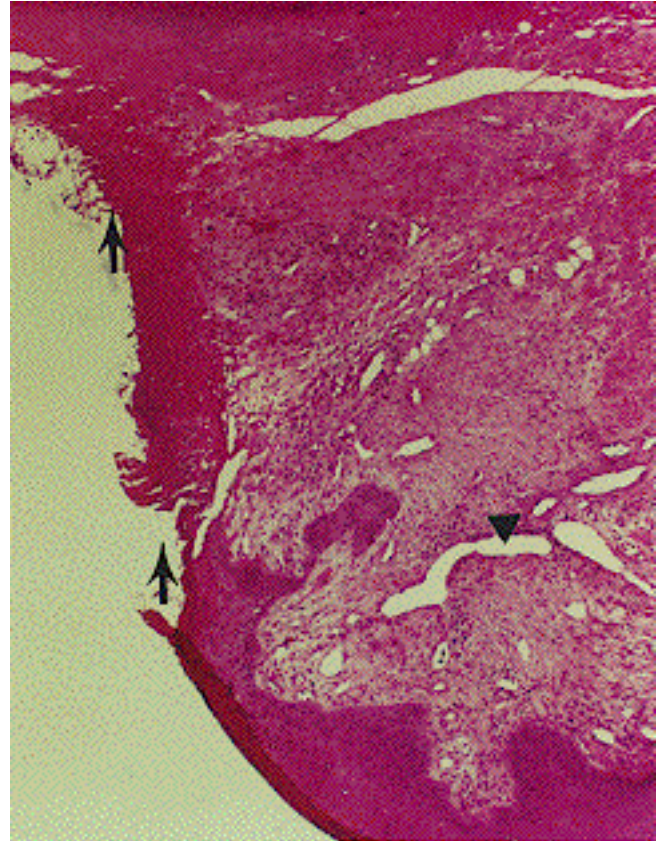
Also called "painful nodule," these 0.5 to 1 cm. lesions, usually solitary, are located on the apex of the helix of the ear (occasionally elsewhere) and are exquisitely sensitive. There is usually crusting or ulceration.

Microscopically, there is degenerated collagen in the dermis and granulation tissue with the overlying epidermis showing acanthosis and parakeratosis and typically a crusted ulcer. The perichondrium of the underlying auricular cartilage is thickened and there may be erosion of the cartilage although this change is not needed for diagnosis.

Acanthotic epidermis (double arrows) and a granulomatous change in the dermis with numerous vessels (single arrows). Often the epidermis is ulcerated with a necrotic crust but it is not seen here. The underlying cartilage is eroded (triangle).



Ulceration with a crust (arrows) covers granulation tissue in dermis demonstrating many small vessels (triangle). Cartilage was uninvolved in this patient and the nodule, rather exceptionally, was on the antihelix.



CLINICAL ASPECT:

Treatment is simple excision and should include some cartilage.