

Retroareolar cysts in the adolescent

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Background: Retroareolar cysts present in female adolescents with palpable subareolar masses that can have concomitant inflammatory changes. The purpose of this study was to report our cases of retroareolar cysts and thus to contribute to a better knowledge and understanding of this entity.

Methods: Forty-six girls were diagnosed with retroareolar cysts between December 2000 and July 2002. A retrospective chart review is presented with the clinical and ultrasonographic findings.

Results: Age at presentation was 10 to 20 years. The reason for consultation was acute mastalgia and inflammation in 31 cases and palpable nodule in 15 cases. Two patients had areolar discharge.

Ultrasonographic imaging in the 46 girls showed retroareolar simple cysts, either multiple or bilateral. The cysts had thin walls and were round, oval, or elongated with a variable diameter always less than 20 mm. They had liquid content with an echogenic or calcific sediment. When retroareolar cysts presented with infl