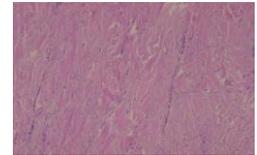


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**keloid seen  
microscopically**

## Keloids and Hypertrophic Scars

**Keloids and hypertrophic scars are something no one wants, even if they have been known since ancient Egypt. When the skin is injured, pierced, or cut, the skin and its underlying structures can overheat in 5 to 15% of the population. If the scar stays within the site of the injury, it is called a hypertrophic scar, but if it extends outside of the injury, it is known as a keloid.**

**disease nor do they represent a malignancy.**



**Spontaneous keloid**  
**These are the bumps that develop on the back of the neck. They are not due to infection nor are they due to a careless barber or hairdresser.**



**Some people are more prone to developing keloids than are others. Although keloid formation may be genetic, there is no way to predict who will form a keloid and who will not. A person may develop a keloid in the right ear, while the left ear may have been pierced at the same time without a problem. Unfortunately, a keloid can continue to grow, even after stopping for a time.**

**A keloid often develops without any known injury, and this is known as a spontaneous keloid. It will still have the same discomfort, itching, and even pain. Keloids are not associated with any other**



**Treatment  
of keloids**

**The best treatment is applying or injecting corticosteroids to thin the keloid. This utilizes a side effect of the steroid to cause atrophy. Other options include cryosurgery and radiation. Cutting should be avoided and usually only for a pedunculated keloid that has become soft.**

