

Ear lobe crease and canal hair

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Keywords

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Description

A 78-year-old man presented to the cardiac rehabilitation department of our hospital. He seemed well and his vital signs were unremarkable. Interestingly, on examination, a diagonal ear lobe crease, known as Frank's sign, was shown on the both sides, along with prominent hair of the ear canal. His previous medical history was notable for Stanford type B aortic dissection, chronic heart failure, and gout. The medications included carvedilol, enalapril, furosemide, and topiroxostat. It is worth noting that a diagonal earlobe crease is associated with coronary artery disease [1], although the mechanism remains to be elucidated. This simple sign may change with posture (i.e., more frequently observed in the supine position than in the sitting position) and seems more reliable when observed on both sides of the ear canal [2]. Ear canal hair is also likely to be a sign of atherosclerosis [3], although attention should be paid to the hair length since ear canal hair might be cut in a barber shop or hair salon at regular intervals. The patient stated that he has ear canal hair cut at an interval of approximately one month and that next visit is soon scheduled.

Clinical Image



References

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