

DEFINITION AND CLASSIFICATION

BALANITIS

The term balanitis means inflammation of the glans penis, but does not provide any information about the aetiology (Farid, 1981).

It is more common in uncircumcised men, and the prepuce is usually involved, so that a more accurate name for the condition is balano-posthitis.

Balano-posthitis often occurs following intercourse, but in many cases the cause and precise factors are not obvious (Catterall, 1979 and Wilkinson et al., 1979).

Balanitis may be acute or chronic. It is caused by many causes, irritant, viral, bacterial, fungal, trichomonal. Balanitis may be present with another disease such as diabetes, Reiter's disease, drug eruption (Wilkinson et al., 1979).

The common causes of balanitis are trauma, contact irritant, or allergic dermatitis and infection. Of the infectious agents, candida albicans and herpes simplex are the most commonly encountered sources (Petrozzi and Erlich, 1977).

A classification given by Wilkinson (1979) will be adapted in the present review of balanitis and includes:

ACUTE SUPERFICIAL BALANITIS:

A- Infective balanitis (the most common cause of balanitis):

1- Bacterial balanitis:

- . Non-specific
- . Specific: sphilitic, gonococcal

2- Viral balanitis

3- Candidal balanitis

4- Amoebic balanitis

5- Trichomonal balanitis

B- Irritant.

C- Traumatic.

D- Balanitis due to fixed drug eruptions.

CHRONIC BALANITIS:

A- Balanitis xerotica obliterans.

B- Zoon's balanitis.

C- Circinate erosive balanitis.

D- Micaceous and keratotic, pseudo-epitheliomatous
balanitis.

E- Gangrenous balanitis.