

MEDICAL EPONYMS LINKED TO HAIR

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An eponym is a word derived from the name of a person, whether real or fictional. A medical eponym is thus any word related to medicine, whose name is derived from a person.

Nevertheless, some ancient medical scientists who made researches and their names were linked to medical conditions, hence become „eponyms” are now „anonyms”, in the sense that little is known about them.

In Table I [1-12], I listed some commonly used medical eponyms which are primarily linked to hair.

As it is seen from the table, the „hair eponyms” are not limited to the hair disorders but also, the anatomical structures, inside the hair follicle.

Tracing the historical origins of medical eponyms can be fraught with dilemmas, particularly when the evidence for the naming comes from portraiture, as in Queen Anne’s sign [12].

There is a rise and fall in the usage of eponyms in medical literature as there is ongoing dispute whether to use or not to use them. However, it is obvious that those eponyms coined for any old and common medical conditions, are likely to be continually used.

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Medical eponyms linked to hair	Remarks
Adamson's fringe	In growing hairs, the margin between the mitotically active hair bulb and the inactive hair shaft is known as Adamson's fringe [1]. It is named after, Horatio George Adamson (1866–1955).
Björnstad syndrome	It is an autosomal recessive disorder associated with sensorineural hearing loss and pili torti [2]. It was first characterized in 1965, in Oslo, by Prof. Roar Theodor Björnstad (1908–2002).
Carvajal syndrome	Carvajal syndrome (CS) (also known as "Striate palmoplantar keratoderma with woolly hair and cardiomyopathy" and "Striate palmoplantar keratoderma with woolly hair and left ventricular dilated cardiomyopathy,". Carvajal-Huerta (1998) described 18 patients with a confirmation of epidermolytic palmoplantar keratoderma, woolly hair, and dilated cardiomyopathy, examined clinically and histologically in Ecuador between 1970 and 1997 [3]. CS might be a variant of Naxos disease (ND), which was first described by Protonotarios et al., in families originating from the Greek island of Naxos [4]. ND is a rare autosomal recessive inherited association of right ventricular dysplasia/dilated cardiomyopathy with woolly hair and palmoplantar keratoderma.
Henle's Layer of the Internal Root Sheath	It is named after, Jacob Henle (1809-1885) [5].
Huxley Huxley's Layer of the Inner Root Sheath	It is named after, Thomas Henry Huxley (1825–1895) [6].
Graham-Little-Piccardi-Lasseur syndrome	Also, called as Lassueur-Graham-Little-Piccardi syndrome or Piccardi-Graham Little-Lasseur syndrome. It is a rare lichenoid dermatosis defined by the triad of multifocal cicatricial alopecia of the scalp; noncicatricial alopecia of the axilla and groin; and a follicular lichen planus eruption on the body, scalp, or both. It was initially described by Piccardi in 1913. In 1915, Sir Ernest Graham-Little (1867-1950) published a similar case observed by Lassueur. Since then several case reports of this syndrome have been published [7].
Menkes disease (MD)	Also, known as, Menkes' kinky hair syndrome is a multisystemic lethal disorder due to impaired copper transport and metabolism with pili torti [8]. Menkes and collaborators defined the syndrome in 1962 on the basis of five boys in the same family. John Hans Menkes, was Austrian-American paediatrician and writer, born 1928.
Netherton syndrome (NS)	NS is characterized by the triad of trichorrhexis invaginata, ichthyosis linearis circumflexa, and an atopic diathesis [10]. It is named after E.W. Netherton. Who described a 4-year old girl with scaly red and different hair, which he called bamboo hair, because of how it looked in the microscope. Nine years earlier, the Italian dermatologist Come described a condition in a young woman with a ring shape change in her skin, which he called itchyosis Linearis circumflex. These two descriptions were considered to be related.
Queen Anne's sign	It is also known as, the sign of Hertoghe. It is a laterally truncated eyebrow, and is a sign of hypothyroidism. The sign is named for Eugene Hertoghe of Antwerp, a pioneer in thyroid function research. The eponym is disputed by some and the association with Anne of Denmark is based on portraiture, and history does not suggest that she suffered hypothyroidism [11,12].

Table I. Selected medical eponyms linked to hair