

A sebaceous cyst is a term commonly used to refer to either:

[Epidermoid cysts](#) (also termed epidermal cysts, infundibular cyst), or

Pilar cysts (also termed trichilemmal cysts, isthmus-catagen cysts).

Both of the above types of cyst contain keratin, not sebum, and neither originates from sebaceous glands. Epidermoid cysts originate in the epidermis and pilar cysts originate from hair follicles. Therefore, technically speaking they are not sebaceous cysts.

“True” sebaceous cysts, cysts which originate from sebaceous glands and which contain sebum, are relatively rare and are known as steatocystoma simplex or, if multiple, as steatocystoma multiplex.

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