INTRODUCTION
Benign tumors of the conjunctiva are much more common than malignant tumors. In this chapter, benign tumors of epithelial and melanocytic origin, which comprise the majority of the conjunctival tumors, are described. Benign stromal tumors are described in Chapter 28.

Squamous Cell Papilloma
This more commonly occurs in young adults. In children, the papillomas have been documented to be associated with human papilloma virus (mostly types 6, 11, and 16) infection of the conjunctiva (Figure 24-1). Cryotherapy is often used in conjunction with surgical excision, either to the conjunctiva around the excised lesion or to the lesion itself that is then excised in frozen state. Sometimes, cryotherapy may be performed without excision. Recurrent lesions may be treated by adjuvant interferon alpha-2B locally or systemically or topical mitomycin C.

Inverted Papilloma (Inverted Follicular Keratosis)
The lesions derive their name from the propensity to invaginate inward into the underlying conjunctival substantia propria, instead of growing in an exophytic manner outward.

Reactive Epithelial Hyperplasia (Pseudoepitheliomatous Hyperplasia)
This may be secondary to irritation by concurrent or pre-existing stromal inflammation.

Hereditary Benign Intraepithelial Dyskeratosis
Hereditary benign intraepithelial dyskeratosis (HBID) is an autosomal dominant disorder with a high degree of penetrance occurring in descendants of an inbred isolate of European, African-American, and Native American (Haliwa Indian) origin in northeastern North Carolina. Using genetic linkage analysis, the HBID gene was localized to chromosome 4 (4q35). HBID is characterized by bilateral elevated fleshy plaques on the nasal or temporal perilimbal bulbar conjunctiva, with dilated conjunctival vessels around it.

Epithelial Cysts
Common cysts are epithelial inclusion cyst and ductal cysts, usually of accessory lacrimal gland origin.

Benign Melanocytic Tumors
Conjunctival Nevus
The circumscribed nevus is the most common melanocytic conjunctival tumor. It appears in all races, although is more common in Caucasians (Figure 24-2). Most acquired conjunctival nevi will appear during the first two decades of life. Melanocytic