

Pediatric Images

Gamasoidosis (bird mite dermatitis): A case series in a family



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An 18-month-old infant and a 12-year-old boy were assessed because of a two-days history of progressively pruritic lesions on the abdomen, chest, and back. On physical examination, multiple erythematous papules on the trunk and back were observed (Fig. 1). The patients'

mother presented linear excoriations and lesions with corkscrew morphology on the upper limbs.

During a site visit to the patient's home, three other inhabitants were evaluated, and two had pruritic lesions (Fig. 2). Inspection of the indoor environment, including the

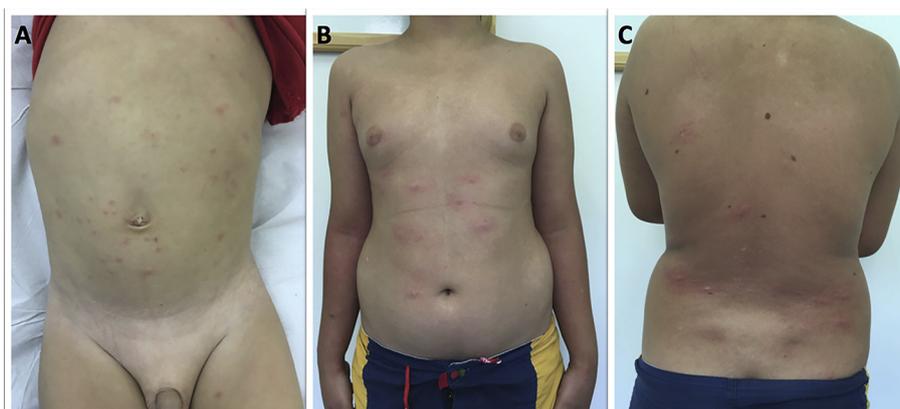


Figure 1 (A) Excoriated erythematous papules on the chest, abdomen and left thigh of a 18-month male infant; (B–C) wheals and urticaria-like plaques on the trunk, back, and upper limbs of a 12-year-old boy.

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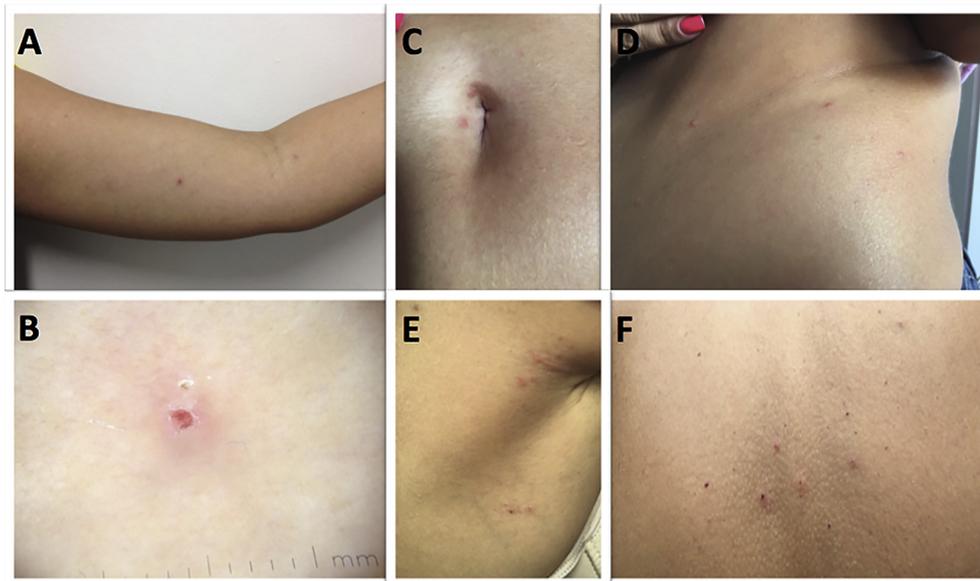


Figure 2 (A) Erythematous papules on the arm and left forearm; (B) dermoscopy of an excoriated lesion showing the corkscrew morphology; (C–D) erythematous papules on the umbilicus and the left flank; (E–F) multiple erythematous and excoriated papules covered by crusts on the right axilla and back.

bedrooms and living room, revealed many mites on the internal walls and windows, as well as the beds. A sample of 15 representative mites were collected and subsequently identified as *Dermanyssus gallinae* (Fig. S1) by the last author from a photographic image in a textbook. Subsequently, several nests of sparrows were found and removed from the roof. The family was educated as to the cause of their lesions and how to avoid having the birds return to their nesting sites. After remediation of the sparrow nests was completed and the structure cleaned, all of the patient's dermatologic complaints fully resolved and did not recur.

We concluded that *D. gallinae* mites had infested the roof and exterior of the house by nesting synanthropic birds, and subsequently these mites were dispersed into the rooms below, where they were responsible for hematophagy and the consequent outbreak of dermatitis.^{1,2} *D. gallinae* is primarily considered a pest of chickens. However, it feeds on at least 30 species of birds including pigeons, sparrows, and starlings.³ This case indicates that gamasoidosis should be included in the differential diagnosis of pruritic dermatitis with erythematous papules, corkscrew lesions, and excoriations. This is particularly true if the outbreak is occurring in patients from a built

environment where house sparrows or other species of synanthropic birds are nesting or roosting.

Conflict of interest

None.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pedneo.2017.08.001>.

References

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