

CLINICAL IMAGE

Cutaneous myiasis in a neglected elderly

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An 82-year-old male patient, a non-compliant diabetic leading a solitary life, presented to the emergency room with painful rapidly growing lumps over the left side of his forehead. He gave history of bloody discharge and whitish creatures appearing to be like worms crawling inside the wound since the past 2 weeks. His examination revealed inflamed, tender and foul smelling ulcers over the forehead, the largest one measured approximately 4 × 3 cm in size, filled with serosanguinous discharge and multiple white maggots wriggling inside the ulcer (Fig. 1). The patient was managed by applying gauze pieces impregnated with turpentine oil over the ulcers 10 min after which around 20–30 creamy-white maggots, each of ~5–6 mm in size, were seen crawling out from the ulcers. The wound was thoroughly cleaned with povidone iodine and systemic antibiotics were administered to combat secondary bacterial infections in view of the foul smelling wound, a temperature of 99.6 degrees fahrenheit and an increased white blood cell count of 18000/mm³. The patient was planned for wound debridement; however, the patient deferred all other forms of treatment and left the hospital the next day.

Myiasis is the infestation of live vertebrates with the dipterous larvae, also known as maggots, which feed on the host's live or dead tissues. Cutaneous myiasis is an underreported entity seen in individuals with poor personal hygiene and sanitation, older people with self-neglect, non-healing open wounds and comorbidities like diabetes and malignancies [1]. The treatment of myiasis comprises of mechanical removal of maggots from the lesions, debridement of the necrotic tissues and administering systemic antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment is of utmost importance to halt the process of tissue destruction and prevent further complications [2].



Figure 1: Cutaneous myiasis showing multiple ulcers over the forehead with crawling creamy-white maggots.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None declared.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Not applicable.

CONSENT

Written informed consent taken from the patient.

GUARANTOR

Olita Shilpakar is the nominated guarantor for this clinical image.

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