Triangular black dots in dermoscopy of furuncular myiasis

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Key words: dermoscopy; diagnosis; larva; myiasis; parasitic diseases.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

A 64-year-old woman presented to our department with a 2-week history of a painful enlarging nodule on her scalp. Dermatologic examination of the scalp revealed a nodule with a central pore with serosanguineous discharge.

DERMOSCOPIC APPEARANCE

Dermoscopic examination of the furuncular lesion using oil as an interface showed bubbles escaping from the central orifice, surrounded by dilated blood vessels and triangular black dots (Fig 1, Video 1).

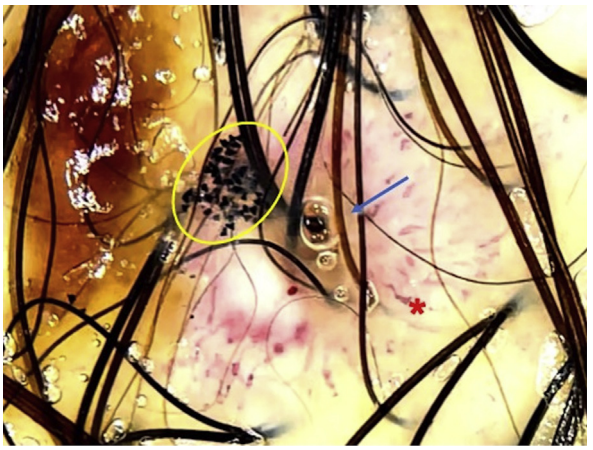

Fig 1. Furuncular myiasis. Dermoscopy revealed bubbles arising from the central pore (*blue arrow*) surrounded by blood vessels (*red asterisk*) and triangular black dots (*yellow circle*) corresponding to the body spines of a *Dermatobia hominis* larva.

DERMOSCOPY OF DERMATOBIA HOMINIS LARVA

The larva was forced out by mechanical pressure and extracted using forceps. Dermoscopy of the third instar larva of *Dermatobia hominis* showed bird's feet-like breathing spiracles on the posterior end; 2 curved mouth hooks on the anterior portion where the oral opening is located; and rows of concentric black spines around the body corresponding to the triangular black dots seen by transparency in the scalp dermoscopy (Fig 2).

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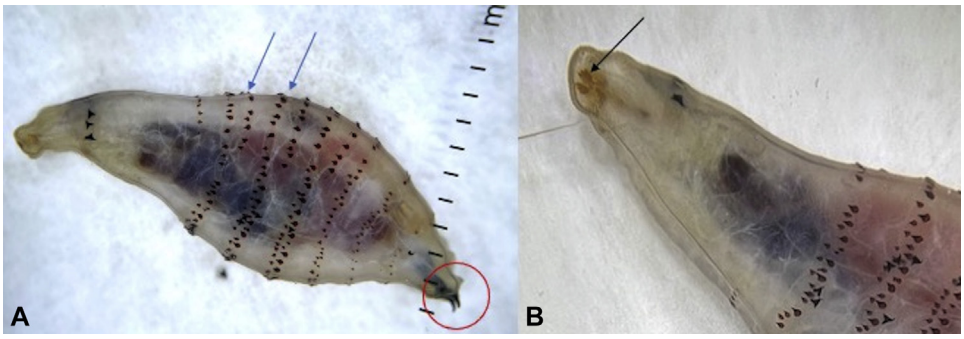

Fig 2. Furuncular myiasis. Dermoscopy of the third instar larva of *Dermatobia hominis*. **A**, Maggot's body surrounded by black spines (*blue arrows*); oral hooks on the anterior portion (*red circle*). **B**, Posterior segment of the larva with bird's feet-like structures, corresponding to the breathing spiracles (*black arrow*).

KEY MESSAGE

Furuncular myiasis is an important differential diagnosis of boil-like lesions in travelers returning from Central or South America. It occurs after the penetration of a botfly larva, mainly *D hominis* in the skin. Diagnosis is based on the presence of a furuncular-like lesion and the visualization of the posterior breathing spiracle or bubbles escaping from the central orifice. These findings are better observed by dermoscopy. According to our case, triangular black dots may be an additional dermoscopic finding in furuncular myiasis. Triangular black dots correspond to spines that anchor the larva in the host's skin.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.