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RESEARCH ARTICLE

WHAT AN ITCHY INTERGLUTEAL CLEFT CAN HIDE

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Abstract

Scabies is a contagious ubiquitous ectoparasitosis, with exclusive human-to-human transmission. It usually presents with herpes, papulo-vesicles, nodules, and intense pruritus at night, which cause pain and disturbed sleep in the affected individuals. Dermoscopy, a non-invasive optical magnifying technique, has been used to aid in the diagnosis of scabies in recent years, as in the case of our patient, aged 57, who presented atypical features of scabies, he was treated with antihistotics and then dermocorticoids, but thanks to dermoscopy, the diagnosis was rectified.

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Introduction:-

Scabies is a contagious ubiquitous ectoparasitosis, with exclusive human-to-human transmission, it occurs as sporadic cases or small epidemics, and affects individuals of both sexes, of all ages and from all social backgrounds. In Morocco, the incidence of scabies is not well known, but it is probably high. It is a well-known parasitic infection but it can be difficult to diagnose, especially in its localized form, especially in the absence of pruritus in the environment. We report the case of a 57-year-old man with a localized pruritic eczematous rash for more than 6 months, for which dermoscopy allowed to rectify the diagnosis with the identification of grooves and sarcoptes.

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Clinical features of the patient with scabies

Observation:-

- A 57years old patient with a history of end-stage renal failure on haemodialysis, was admitted to the clinic for pruritus on the intergluteal fold, which had been present for 6 months without any other associated signs, and had been seen on several occasions. The eruption was initially treated for bacterial impetiginisation associated with dermocorticoids, but in view of the worsening of the pruritus and the extension of the lesion, he was put on topical antimycotics, but the patient still had the extremely pruritic lesion, which significantly altered his quality of life.
- The interrogation did not mention any medication or pruritus in the family.
- The clinical examination revealed a scaly placard taking the intergluteal fold and extending to the two buttocks, which was very pruritic, with scratching lesions opposite.
- No skin lesions were found on the rest of the integument.
- Dermoscopic examination showed the delta plane sign with the scabious furrow.
- The diagnosis of intergluteal fold scabies was made on the basis of clinical and dermoscopic criteria and the patient was put on benzyl benzoate with very good improvement.
- A few days later, our patient's wife presented with scabies.



Dermoscopic image of scabies

Discussion:-

Human scabies is a well-known parasitic infection caused by a mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei* variety *homini*. It is contagious and is transmitted in the vast majority of cases through direct, intimate and prolonged human contact.

Since scabies is not a notifiable disease in Morocco [1], its epidemiology and true prevalence are unknown. However, in the experience of health professionals, poverty, overcrowding, bed-sharing and large families are all factors that increase the risk of scabies spreading.

The skin lesions are usually not very specific but the topography should alert (interdigital spaces, anterior aspect of wrists, elbows, umbilicus, buttocks, thighs, external genitalia, nipples) [2], even in the localized form as in our patient's case, the diagnosis of scabies should not be ruled out. In general, the diagnosis of scabies depends on the presence of an itchy rash that worsens during the night and occurs in characteristic places, especially when other family members present with symptoms should raise the diagnosis and look for the sarcoptes. It is often confused with other pruritic rashes, such as eczema, intertrigo, psoriasis or impetigo [3].

The mite or its eggs can be demonstrated microscopically by scraping a groove with a vaccinostyl. However, dermoscopy in our daily practice has the advantage of being quick and simple, and it is used to confirm the diagnosis of scabies, where it shows characteristic small brown triangular structures or the delta sign [4]. These structures correspond to the anterior part of the sarcoptes (rostrum and two pairs of front legs). The base of the triangle extends into a sinuous groove, the path of the sarcoptes in the stratum corneum, made visible by the presence of air bubbles and small brown-black dots of varying size corresponding to eggs or excreta. Dermoscopy can be used to avoid or guide the sampling.

Conclusion:-

Scabies is a very common pediculosis, especially in developing countries, and is easily diagnosed, but the case we presented is atypical and thanks to dermoscopy we were able to detect the specific signs of scabies.

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