



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

GAMASOIDOSIS: A LITTLE KNOWN AND UNDERDIAGNOSED INFESTATION.

Aline Palitot Santana⁽¹⁾ - Alberto Eduardo Cox Cardoso⁽¹⁾

Federal University Of Alagoas, Dermatology, Maceió, Brazil⁽¹⁾

Background: Gamasoidosis or dermatitis caused by mites has become increasingly common, especially in the urban environment with the proliferation of pigeons in the cities. It is caused mainly by the mites of the species *Dermanyssus gallinae*, but other species may be involved, such as *Ornithonyssus sylviarum*, *Ornithonyssus bursa* and *Dermanyssus avium*. They are temporary hematophagous ectoparasites of domestic and wild birds, mainly infesting chickens, turkeys, pigeons and birds, but can also feed on other species, including humans. The cutaneous lesions caused by these mites resemble those of scabies and pediculosis. They are flat erythematous papules that are quite pruriginous, can affect any region of the body, however, unlike scabies, it prefers to affect folds of skin.

Observation: A 77-year-old male patient sought dermatological care due to extremely pruritic lesions in the body that began 15 days ago. No comorbidities. Dermatological examination showed erythematous papules in the body, especially in the upper limbs. Oral antihistamine, topical clobetasol propionate, and moisturizer were prescribed. The patient reported having found "bugs" in his room, and, after being alerted, found in the air-conditioning box a bird nest with the presence of the mite. After use of the prescribed medications, the patient evolved with improvement of the clinical picture, and in the subsequent consultation he brought the mites found in the room, identified as being of the species *Dermanyssus gallinae*.

Key message: Dermatitis caused by arthropod parasites of birds is often overlooked but should always be remembered in cases of acute prurigo. The picture is self-limited and usually regresses spontaneously, and symptomatic treatment of acute prurigo with topical corticosteroids and antihistamines can be done. The prevention of new cases is done with strict vigilance, with the removal of nests of birds containing mites, and with cleaning and disinfection of the affected area with acaricide.

