



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

## WHITE PIEDRA IN TWO PEDIATRIC PATIENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

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**Background:** White piedra is a superficial, chronic and asymptomatic mycosis, caused by *Trichosporon* spp, which affects the hair of the scalp, face, pubis, and trunk. The presence of irregular yellowish-white nodules along the hair shaft like a sleeve-like mass, characterize this disease. Cases of white piedra are common in regions of tropical climates. In South America, most cases reported are from Brazil and Colombia, but rarely from Peru.

**Observation:** Two siblings, from Cundinamarca, Colombia, living in Lima, Peru for one month. Case 1: A 3-year-old girl with a three-month history of soft whitish nodules along the hair shafts of the scalp, mostly in the occipital region. The nodules were approximately 1 mm in length, with well-defined edges. The affected hair stems fractured at the attempt of their removal. Wood's lamp examination did not show any fluorescence. Direct microscopic analysis of the hair nodules with 20% KOH, exposed dense masses of conidia consistent with ectothrix infection along the hair shafts. The culture was negative. Case 2: A 5-year-old girl with a 1-month history of soft whitish nodules along the hair shafts of the scalp, smaller than 1 mm, with well-defined edges. No fluorescence was observed with Wood's light. Direct examination of the nodules with 20% KOH revealed translucent concretions formed by dense masses of conidia with ectothrix infection of the hair shaft. It was not possible to perform a lesion culture. In both cases, the hair lesions resolved entirely after three weeks with antifungals and topical keratolytics.

**Key message:** White piedra has a very low incidence in the Peruvian population. These imported cases represent an example of the impact of migration on health and the spread of infectious diseases in the countries of South America.

