



PRURITUS

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE 'CRABITY' ITCH

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Pruritus is defined as an unpleasant sensation of the skin leading to the desire to scratch. When dealing with a patient of chronic pruritus, identifying the aetiology is a challenge. Here, we report a case of a 57 year old, male patient with history of itching all over the body since approximately 5 weeks. The itching had no diurnal variation. He was an alcoholic with uncontrolled diabetes. Skin examination appeared to be normal and blood tests showed increased levels of blood glucose. A week later he returned to the OPD with complaints of noticing a blackish powdery substance on his white coloured undergarments, shirt and trousers. Dermoscopic examination revealed nits and millions of lice (in various stages of development) in the groin, lower abdomen, axilla, thighs and extending to the lower limbs. We report this case to increase awareness of this entity as a common cause for pruritus and the usefulness of dermoscopy in demonstrating and helping in the diagnosis of the crab louse infestation.

