
MAY IOTADERMA (#315)

Foods of all sorts are used in the descriptions of a large number of general medicine, pathology, and dermatology conditions. In what dermatologic context is “Swiss cheese” sometimes found?

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Answer will appear in the *JAAD* Online section of the June issue.

APRIL IOTADERMA (#314)

Question: All of us have experienced pique when in the office or clinic. Do you happen to know what dermatologic disease is known [amongst many other names] as **pique**?

Answer: Pique is one of the commonly used local terms for tungiasis.¹⁻³ This disease is a cutaneous zoonosis which results when adult female sand fleas (*Tunga penetrans*) burrow into the skin, usually on the feet. The infestation is picked up by walking barefoot on areas teeming with the insects. The multitudinous embedded fleas grow fast in the hot and moist environment of the skin, and these then set off a marked inflammatory response. Massive superinfection is a common consequence. Patients frequently experience severe discomfort and pain, and will sometimes develop ulcers and lymphangitis.¹⁻³ Preventing flea burrowing can be accomplished with foot wear and the repeated application of coconut oil repellants. The skin condition can be treated by laboriously removing the embedded insects, along with appropriate therapy for infection.

REFERENCES

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