

Crabs skiing in the axilla

A 21-year-old man presented with itching in the axillae for 2 months. A dermatological examination revealed follicular papules (resembling Darier's disease) and pseudofolliculitis barbae [Figure 1]. However, dermoscopy revealed the presence of numerous crab lice that were firmly attached to the hair shaft. They appeared to be skiing holding on to adjacent hair [Figure 2]. On microscopy, the louse was found to have a wide body, short antennae, crab-like appendages and narrow mouth parts confirming it to be *Pthirus pubis* [Figure 3].

The patient was treated with 1% permethrin lotion, counselled about the disease and advised to get all his contacts also treated for the same condition. At one month follow up, the patient was free from the infestation clinically and dermoscopically. Lice infestation in the axilla can mimic other conditions and a dermoscopic examination and/ or microscopy can clinch the diagnosis at the bedside thus preventing misdiagnosis or treatment delays.



Figure 1: Right axilla showing dark follicular papules



Figure 2: Dermoscopy showing three crab lice holding on to hair shafts in the axilla as if in the process of skiing (Dermlite D4 dermoscope, polarising mode, magnification 10×)

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Figure 3: Microscopy (10×) showing *Pthirus pubis* (crab louse) with characteristic morphological features

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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