

Dermoscopy Image: Phtiriasis Pubis

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A 18-year-old young man was admitted because of a rash on the genital area. The patient stated he was in good general health. He declared that the rash had appeared approximately 1 months before. The rash was diagnosed as allergic contact dermatitis and unsuccessfully treated with

oral antihistamines. The patient complained of severe itching. Dermatological examination revealed several isolated or confluent, roundish, erythematous papules, at the genital area , buttock and perianal region.



Dermoscopy revealed pubic lice and nits . Neither lice/nits were observed elsewhere, including eyebrows, eyelashes, axillae, and scalp. Serology research of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis were negative. The patient was treated successfully by shaving and skin repair lotion.

Pediculosis pubis is an infectious disease caused by the infestation with the parasite *Phthirus pubis*. The infection is transmitted by sexual contact,

close body contact or, less commonly, by contact with objects (e.g. clothing, towels). (1) *Phthirus pubis* infests the terminal hairs of the pubic

and perianal areas. Dermoscopy helps to identify pubic lice because of their crab-like claws and body shape, which distinguishes them from other lice infestations.(2)

References

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