

Reply to: “Kalava-induced foreign body reaction”



To the Editor: We thank Misri et al¹ for their thoughtful response to our Continuing Medical Education series on dermatoses caused by cultural practices.^{2,3} We appreciate the pertinent discussion and figures illustrating the use of Kalava¹ threads also known as Mauli or Charadu,⁴ and the rare foreign body reaction reported in a child. A case series on the use of colored strings during religious Hindu ceremonies reported possible complications including chemical leukoderma caused by the combination of mechanical friction and chemical dyes.⁵

There are many cultural dermatoses related to religious practices that we were unable to include because of space limitations. Such examples include dermatoses related to Holi (Hinduism), Salat (Islam), turbans (Sikhism), davening (Judaism), and pews (Christianity). We again thank Misri et al¹ for sharing this important complication and management strategies, allowing for a more thorough discussion on the topic.

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