
SEPTEMBER IOTADERMA (#307)

While suffering through organic chemistry we learned about chemicals such as methanethiol, isovaleric acid, butanes, and propionic acid among many others. How do such molecules relate to us in dermatology?

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

AUGUST IOTADERMA (#306)

Question: Do you know where, and how, you might encounter a “delta wing” in dermatology?

Answer: The “delta wing sign” is found when employing a dermatoscope for visualization of mites and burrows in a patient suspected of having scabies.¹ Scabies is frequently found in locales where performing a scabies scraping may be difficult at best, and dermoscopy’s utility in such circumstances is that it is readily available, portable, quick, painless, sensitive, and often diagnostic.² Under the instrument’s magnification mites will appear as small dark triangles, hence the term “delta wing sign” (as found in many jet planes’ configurations such as the Concorde). It has been found that combining a traditional scabies scraping along with dermoscopy raises the sensitivity of detection of mites from 47% to 84%.² Scybala, incidentally, are usually not seen but can sometimes be observed.³

REFERENCES

1. Fox G. Diagnosis of scabies by dermoscopy. *BMJ Case Rep.* 2009;2009. Epub 2009 Feb 2.
2. Walter B, Heukelbach J, Fengler G, Worth C, Hengge U, Feldmeier H. Comparison of dermoscopy, skin scraping, and the adhesive tape test for the diagnosis of scabies in a resource-poor setting. *Arch Dermatol.* 2011;147(4):468-473.
3. Bollea Garlatti LA, Torre AC, Bollea Garlatti ML, Galimberti RL, Argenziano G. Dermoscopy aids the diagnosis of crusted scabies in an erythrodermic patient. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2015;73(3):e93-e95.

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