

Cutaneous pili migrans

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Description

A 14-month-old Chinese male infant presented with a black linear mark on the left sole, arranged in a circular fashion (Figure 1). His mother noted a gradual migration of the lesion by several millimeters over a period of about a week. The patient showed no itching or other discomfort, and he was otherwise healthy. By dermoscopy, thin black material embedded below the skin was observed (Figure 2). Using a 23G needle and forceps, a hair shaft was extracted (Figure 3), allowing the diagnosis of cutaneous pili migrans.

In this very rare condition, hair shaft penetrates the epidermis probably owing to friction, then moving while walking. Asian hair has been reported as having high tensile strength and a larger cross-sectional area compared to other ethnicities, explaining why most cases are reported in children from Asian countries. Cutaneous pili migrans has to be differentiated from larva migrans, in which lesions are serpiginous and very pruritic. Prompt recognition avoids potentially stressful procedure like a biopsy.



Figure 1: Clinical image of a circular black material on the left sole.

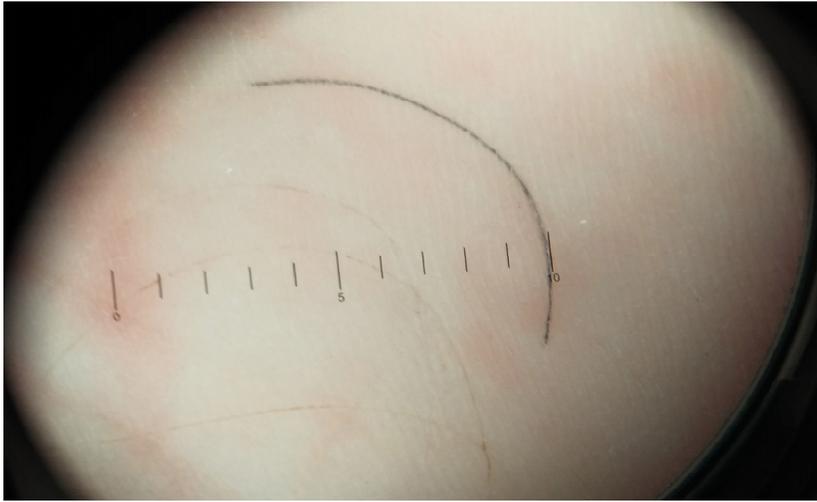


Figure 2: Dermoscopic image of a thin material embedded below the skin.

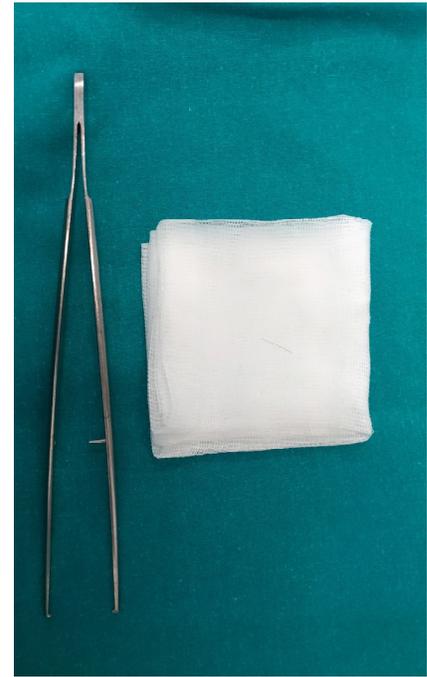


Figure 3: The extracted hair shaft.

Manuscript Information: Received: January 14, 2019; Accepted: February 25, 2020; Published: February 28, 2020

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Citation: Tonin B, Pizzolato M, Furci A, Girolomoni G. Cutaneous pili migrans. *Open J Clin Med Case Rep.* 2020; 1635.

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