

# Phthiriasis Palpebrarum Case Treated with a New Medical Approach

## Yeni Bir Tedavi Yaklaşımı ile Tedavi Edilen Pitriazis Palpebrarum Olgusu

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### Abstract

Phthiriasis palpebrarum and is not a rare condition especially when hygienic conditions are inadequate. We present a case of phthiriasis palpebrarum in a 48-year-old female who was treated with a new medical approach, pure vaseline and povidone iodine mixture. Being more effective, cheaper, able to access it more easily and almost having no side effects are the advantages this regimen apart from others. (*Sakarya Med J 2016, 6(1):38-41*)

### Öz

*Pitriasis palpebrarum özellikle yetersiz hijyen koşullarında ender görülmeyen bir durumdur. Yeni bir yaklaşımla, vazelin ve povidin-iyodin karışımı kullanılarak tedavi edilen 48 yaşındaki bayan hastada görülen pitriasis palpebrarum vakasını sunuyoruz. Diğer uygulamalardan farklı olarak, bu yeni yaklaşımın daha etkili, ucuz, kolay ulaşılabilir ve neredeyse yan etkisiz olması, diğer protokollere göre avantajlardır. (Sakarya Tıp Dergisi 2016, 6(1):38-41)*

## INTRODUCTION

There are three types of pediculosis in humans, *pediculus capitis*, *pediculus corporis*, and *pediculus pubis*. Among them, only *pediculus pubis* cause phthiriasis palpebrarum and is not a rare condition especially when hygienic conditions are inadequate. The lice lye on the eyelashes, then cause symptoms of pruritus exfoliation on the lid skin surface and cause clinical findings such as blepharitis.<sup>1</sup> We would like to present a case of phthiriasis palpebrarum who was treated with a new approach.

## CASE PRESENTATION

A 48-year-old woman patient was admitted to ophthalmology clinic with the complaint of itching in both eye lids for 3 months. "Anamnesis information; our patient was breeding livestock (small and big heads). She was in menopause and had hypertension as concomitant disease. In addition, she was a passive cigarette smoker because of her husband."

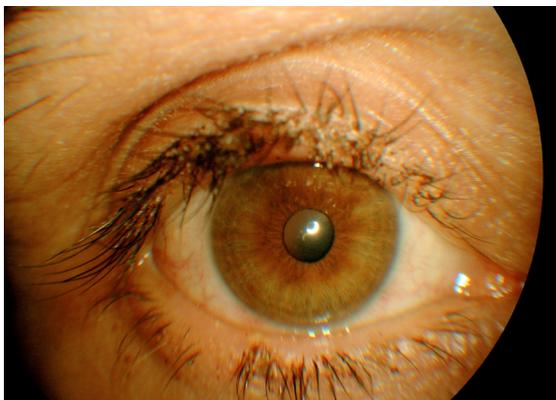


Figure A. Phthiriasis palpebrarum on the eyelashes



Figure B. Phthiriasis palpebrarum on the eyelashes

Prominant complaint of the patient was itching and irritation. At inspection and optalmological examination; intense parasite larvae, drop style, was observed in the eyelashes, some of them were moving (Figure). Microscopic examination of the samples were taken from the lashes revealed the palpebrarum pityriasis. A consultation from the department of clinic biochemistry and microbiology was requested for laboratory tests for pityriasis. Biochemical and microbiological parameters were normal. For the treatment of the case pure vaseline and povidone iodine mixture were used. Povidone iodine (betadine, pH:4.2), measurements and preparation (5%) have made in the biochemistry laboratory (Sakarya M. Faculty, Turkey). Although pure vaseline and povidine iodine mixture were separately used as treatment, use of both chemicals together was applied for the first time in this case (An informed consent was given by the patient for case presentation).

## DISCUSSION

Treatment options in phthiriasis palpebrarum variable alter, and no single handling plan has been approved to be ideal. Inceptive treatment should comprise improvement or plucking of eyelashes to mechanically extract lice, nits, and skin eruption. Additionally treatment should implicate a pediculicidal or occlusive agent (petroleum jelly or water-based gels). Appropriate pediculicides for treatment around the eyes include fluorescein 20%, physostigmine 0.25%, mercuric oxide 1% ophthalmic pomade and ammoniated mercury 3% ophthalmic pomade 1% malathion drops or shampoo, and pilocarpine gel 4%.<sup>2,3</sup> Physostigmine is thought as effective as mercuric salts, however, because it does not kill nits, treatment is recommended for 2 weeks, identical to the life revolution of the head louse.

According to the study which was conducted by Huseyin et al, pure vaseline was recommended to use for eyelashes three times a day. Two weeks later, all of the lice and nits were disappeared<sup>4</sup>. Whereas, in this case, the mixture, which included vaseline and betadine (pH: 4.2, 5% diluted) was used on the margin of eyelashes three times a day. All of the lice and nits completely disappeared ten days later.

The origins of phthiriasis palpebrarum may presumably be due to contacting closely with animals and having a familial transmission. In particular, in cases with poor hygiene and

with blepharitis which does not respond to the conventional treatment, pityriasis palpebrarum should be kept in mind<sup>4,5</sup>. In its treatment process, hygen is one of the most important factors. The advantages which become our treatment apart from others are being more effective, cheaper, able to access it more easily and almost having no side effects.

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