Reviewer's report

Title: Furuncular myiasis of the breast caused by the African Tumbu Fly (Cordylobia anthropophaga).

Version: 3 Date: 7 January 2004

Reviewer: jay keystone

Reviewer's report:

General: An interesting case report of a condition that infrequently involves the breast. However, given the life cycle of the infection, any clothed body part may be involved so that breast myiasis should not come as a surprise to anyone knowledgeable in the field of parasitic disease.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore): It is not clear to this reviewer why you have included in the case report that the patient visited her home village in the past and that boils were noted in the village. Given the short incubation period of this condition, the previous visit should be unrelated to the present problem.

Additional references you might wish to add:


Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Your discussion of how the larvae were extracted is confusing.

2. Figures 2, 4, and 5 are the only ones worthy of publication.

3. Secondary infection in myiasis does occur but is relatively uncommon. Therefore unless there is obvious secondary infection, such as cellulitis, antibiotics are not indicated in all cases as you have suggested.

4. You have not emphasized that the diagnosis of myiasis for the most part is a clinical one when the health care provider finds a "breathing hole" in the centre of a furuncular lesion. Particularly when
serosanguinous fluid id noted to fluctuate at the tip of the orifice. You should emphasize that the key to the diagnosis is the finding of the symmetrical hole. Although ultrasound and mammography have been used to confirm the diagnosis of myiasis you should leave the impression that these diagnostic modalities are rarely needed.

5. Since most readers will likely lump all forms of myiasis together it would be important to briefly indicate how the life cycle and clinical presentation of Latin American myiasis differs from the African form. Namely, the life cycle involving mosquitoes and the fact that African myiasis is found on unexposed areas where clothing comes in contact with the skin; the Bot fly is found on exposed areas where egg-carrying mosquitoes land. Also, insect repellent use for prevention in the Bot fly vs. measures to keep clothing from being infested in the case of the Tumbu fly.

6. Finally, in your conclusion you must make it clear that you are referring to African Myiasis from the Tumbu fly since preventive measures differ from those used for myiasis due to the Bot fly.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: None