A Case of Unilateral Phthiriasis Palpebrarum Infestation

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A 62-year-old woman with a history of raising dogs presented with itching of her left eyelids for 2 weeks. Slitlamp examination revealed lice and translucent ovoid nits on the eyelashes (Figure, A). There was no infestation of hair in other body regions. Based on the examination findings (Figure, B), a diagnosis of unilateral phthiriasis palpebrarum was made. Mechanical removal of the lice was attempted but not successful so the affected eyelashes were removed. The eyelids were then treated with 1 yellow mercuric oxide ointment, %, twice per day for 2 weeks, with resolution of the infestation.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

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Figure. A, Ophthalmic slitlamp examination. Ophthalmic slitlamp examination shows phthirus pubis (crab lice) (black arrowhead) and nits (white arrowhead) on the eyelashes in the left eye. B, Low-power light micrograph. A low-power light micrograph showing a louse with ingested blood (arrowhead).