

Visual Treats in Dermatology

## Demodex mite under microscopy

Madhumitha Palanisamy<sup>1</sup>, Dhaarna Wadhwa<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, India.



Demodex is an ecto-parasitic mite of pilo-sebaceous unit. The body is semi-transparent, made of two fused segments. Four pairs of short, segmented legs with claw-like appendices are present in the anterior segment (podosoma). The posterior segment (opisthosoma) is elongated and tubular. The mouth (gnathosoma) is pin like with segmented palps. The mite anchors itself to the hair follicle using body scales.<sup>[1]</sup> The prevalence of this mite in humans is 100%, but to diagnose

**\*Corresponding author:**

Madhumitha Palanisamy,  
Department of Dermatology,  
Venereology and Leprosy,  
Vardhman Mahavir Medical  
College and Safdarjung  
Hospital, New Delhi, India.

madhumithasriram@gmail.com

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**Quick Response Code:**



**Figure 1:** Demodex mite seen under high power (×40) microscopy.

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**Video 1:** Alive motile Demodex anchored to hair seen in microscope under high power ( $\times 40$ ).

demodicidosis, a density of at least 5 mites/cm<sup>2</sup> is required in standardized skin surface biopsy (SSSB).<sup>[2]</sup> The mite demonstrated in [Figure 1 and Video 1] is from a patient of steroid rosacea whose SSSB had 6 mites/cm<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

Patient's consent not required as patient's identity is not disclosed or compromised.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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