

Images in Clinical Tropical Medicine

Tinea nigra Presenting Speckled or “Salt and Pepper” Pattern

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Abstract. A 7-year-old Caucasian female resident of the southern coast of Brazil presented dark spots on the left palm that converged to a unique macule with speckled pattern at about 1 month. The mycological exam and the fungi culture were typical of *Hortaea werneckii*, the agent of the superficial mycosis *Tinea nigra*. The patient received butenafine hydrochloride 1% for 30 days, resulting in a complete remission of the lesion. At a follow-up visit 12 months after treatment, there was no lesion recurrence. We describe a form of rare geographical *Tinea nigra* with a speckled pattern. The “salt and pepper” aspect should be taken into consideration when the mycosis was suspected.

A 7-year-old Caucasian female child, who was a resident of Itapema town on the northern coast of Santa Catarina State, Brazil, presented dark spots on the left palm about 1 month before the exam; they converged to a unique macule with speckled pattern, with a 1.5 × 2.0-cm diameter and geographic shape (Figure 1).

The mycological exam revealed septate, dematiaceous hyphae, and presence of yeast-like cells with spores. The fungi culture in Sabouraud’s agar showed a moist, shiny, rough, and black colony. The fungi in the culture were identified as *Hortaea werneckii* (Figure 2).

The topical treatment with butenafine hydrochloride 1% for 4 weeks caused complete remission of lesions, with no recurrence during follow-up for 1 year.

Reports of *Tinea nigra* have been rare since the first publication by Cerqueira in 1916.^{1,2} This cosmopolitan dermatomycosis usually affects Caucasian patients, such as in the present report. We describe a form of rare geographical *Tinea nigra* with a speckled pattern.



FIGURE 1. Black macule with geographic shape and speckled pattern on the left palm of the Caucasian patient.

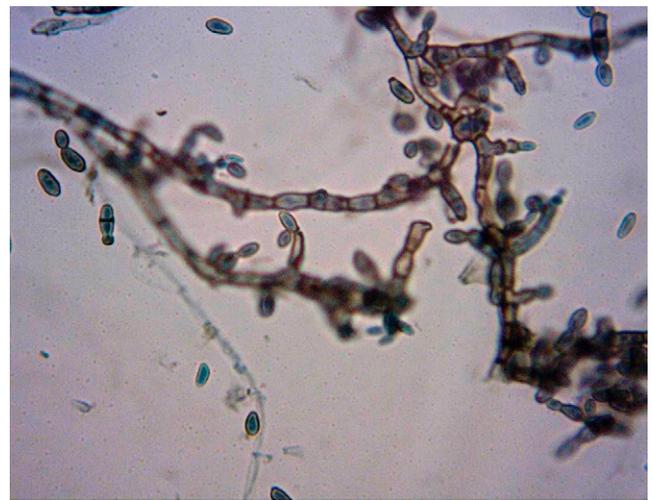


FIGURE 2. Presence of annelloconidia with pigmented filaments (Magnification: 400×).

The “salt and pepper” aspect should be taken into consideration when the mycosis is suspected.

Received July 4, 2013. Accepted for publication November 14, 2013.

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