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Primary Delusions of Parasitosis: Finding an Effective Clinical Approach

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DELUSIONS OF PARASITOSIS

Finding an Effective ~~Exterminator~~ Clinical Approach

Authors

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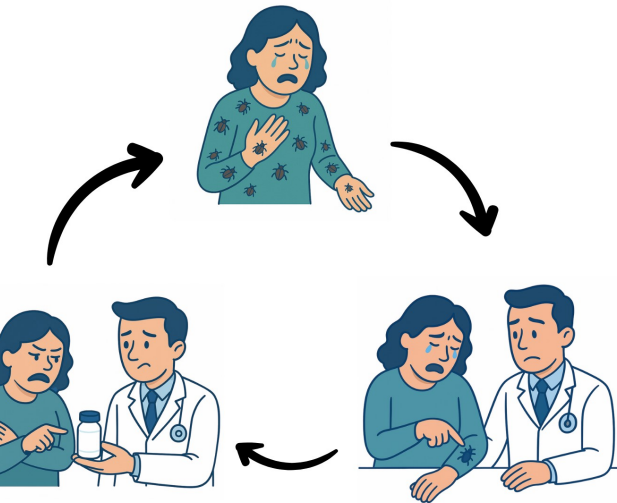


Affiliations

Larner College of Medicine

Introduction

Primary delusions of parasitosis (PDOP) is an isolated delusion of parasitic infestation that is not caused by another medical or psychiatric condition
PDP is treatable with short-term antipsychotics
Many people with PDOP refuse treatment due to a firm belief in the delusion



Objective

- To create an effective clinical script that any physician of any specialty can use to effectively treat PDOP

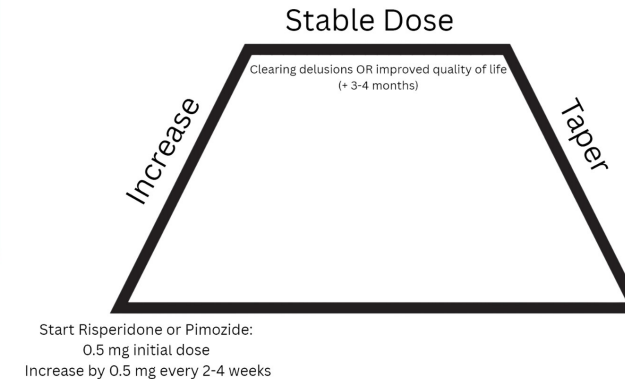
Methodology

- 01 >>> Literature Review
- 02 >>> Treatment script draft
- 03 >>> Interviews with six dermatologists, three psychiatrists, and three primary care physicians to obtain opinions
- 04 >>> Clinical script revisions
- 05 >>> **SCRIPT**



Results

- Don't contradict the delusion
- Do a work up
- Treat the *suffering*, not the delusion
- If needed, use Pimozide as a "non-psychiatric" psychotropic
- Initiate the Trapezoid dosing plan



Conclusion

- PDOP is treatable- but a prescription will only go so far
- Tactful communication and presentation is essential to successfully treating PDOP

Key Sources & Acknowledgements

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Reich, A., Kwiatkowska, D. & Pacan, P. Delusions of Parasitosis: An Update. *Dermatol Ther (Heidelberg)* 9, 631-638 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13555-019-00324-3>

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