



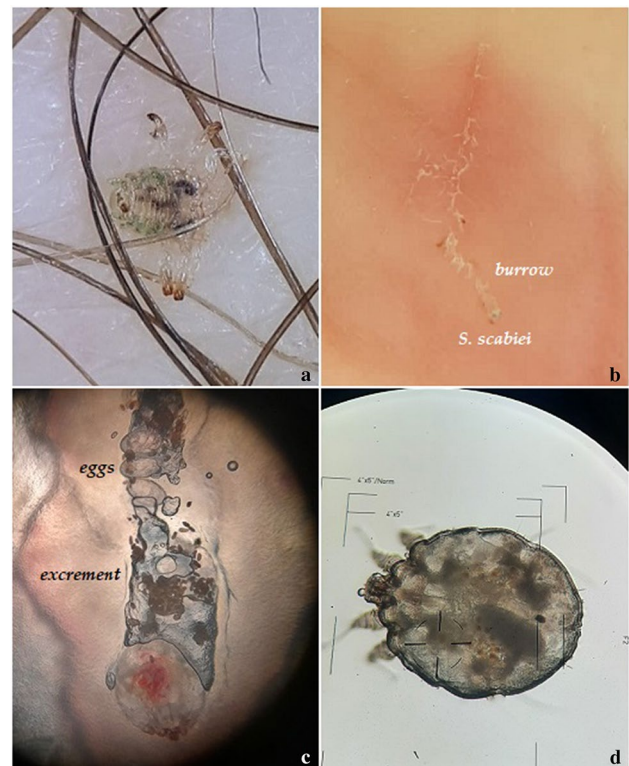
## Dermoscopy and Light Microscopy as an Aid to the Diagnosis of the Most Common Genital Parasitoses

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Dear Editor,

Pediculosis pubis and genital scabies are the two most frequent sexually transmitted parasitic diseases [1]. The clinical picture is often sufficient for the diagnosis, but if uncertain, optical diagnostic tools such as dermoscopy with polarized light and light microscopy can be of help. In *Phthirus pubis* infestations, epiluminescence microscopy (ELM) allows a clear visualization of the louse and its nits (Fig. 1a). In genital scabies lesions, dermatoscopic examination usually allows to appreciate the typical burrows at the level of the epidermis with a small dark V-shaped triangle at the end indicative of *Sarcoptes scabiei* (delta-wing jet sign) [2, 3] (Fig. 1b); if despite this examination the diagnosis remains uncertain, a small blade can be used to shave the lesion or scratch the affected area and analysis of the sample via microscopic examination can be performed. A low magnification (10X) allows to quickly identify the mite and/or indirect signs of its presence (eggs and feces) (Fig. 1c), while higher magnifications (20X) allow to appreciate the mite with greater details (Fig. 1d).



**Fig. 1** Specimen of *Phthirus pubis* (a) and burrow of scabies with mite at the end (delta-wing jet) (b) as they appear with polarized light dermoscope; 10× magnification of burrow obtained by shaving inside which eggs and excrements of the mite can be appreciated (c); 20× magnification of a specimen of *S. scabiei* (d)

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## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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