Dear Editor,

In 2001 we reported a 37-year-old Indian male with a 7cm beard hair that grew beneath the stratum corneum and coined the term cutaneous pili migrans. Since that time there have been numerous reports of this condition in the literature. Cutaneous pili migrans should be distinguished from imbedded hair and Pili Cuniculati where an exogenous human or animal hairs penetrates the skin like a splinter and remains dormant for a period of time.

We report a new variant of cutaneous pili migrans in an otherwise well 34-year-old male who presented with a 10-year history of a grey-black linear lesion in the suprapubic region.

Examination revealed a slightly elevated grey to black linear eruption of approximately

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25mm by 2mm. There was a small area of visibly broken stratum corneum to the medial margin (Figure 1). Dermoscopy revealed the lesion was a hair tuft comprising approximately twenty individual hair shafts. The tuft was able to be removed definitively with forceps (Figure 2).

Unlike the original description of cutaneous pili migrans where a single hair fibre grew from a follicle with a long anagen duration (approximately 6-12 months) to produce a 9cm linear burrow under the skin, in this case a single follicle cycled repeatedly and produced multiple hairs each 1-3 cm long. Each hair grew into the track created by the first hair to produce a sterile tuft of hair. The hair fibres in the tuft all had a telogen bulb.

The closest analogy to this is tufted folliculitis of the scalp which is often considered a variant of folliculitis decalvans. This is an inflammatory condition and tufts comprise 20-50 fibres, some with anagen bulb and some with telogen bulbs. In tufted folliculitis the fibres are thought to arise from multiple follicles.

We did not perform a biopsy in this patient, but the long history of the lesion and the observation that all the fibres had telogen bulbs suggest that tufted cutaneous pili migrans arises from a single follicle.

References
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