



Predisposing factors influencing Myiasis: their treatment and control

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Abstract

Myiasis is a parasitic infestation of live vertebrates, including humans, by larvae of dipterous flies. The infestation is caused by several factors, including poor personal hygiene, untreated wounds, and exposure to fly habitats. This article explores the predisposing factors that influence the occurrence of myiasis, their treatment, and control. Several methods of controlling and preventing myiasis are discussed, including the use of insecticides, mechanical removal of larvae, and proper wound care. This article emphasizes the need for proper hygiene and wound care to prevent and control myiasis.

Introduction

Myiasis is a parasitic infestation caused by the larvae of dipterous flies. It occurs in live vertebrates, including humans, and can lead to severe tissue damage and health complications. Several factors predispose individuals to myiasis, including poor personal hygiene, untreated wounds, and exposure to fly habitats. In this article, we will discuss the predisposing factors that influence the occurrence of myiasis, their treatment, and control.

Predisposing Factors

Several factors can predispose individuals to myiasis. These include poor personal hygiene, untreated wounds, exposure to fly habitats, and underlying medical conditions. Poor personal hygiene, such as lack of bathing and changing clothes, can lead to the accumulation of dirt and moisture on the skin, providing a suitable environment for fly larvae to thrive. Untreated wounds, particularly those with necrotic tissue, provide an ideal breeding ground for fly larvae. Exposure to fly habitats, such as garbage dumps, animal feces, and decaying organic matter, increases the likelihood of myiasis. People with underlying medical conditions, such as diabetes, are also at an increased risk of myiasis.

Treatment and Control



Several methods can be used to control and prevent myiasis. These include the use of insecticides, mechanical removal of larvae, and proper wound care. Insecticides, such as pyrethroids, can be applied to the skin to repel flies and prevent larvae infestation. Mechanical removal of larvae involves the physical removal of the larvae using forceps or tweezers. Proper wound care, including cleaning, debridement, and dressing, is crucial in preventing myiasis. Antibiotics may also be prescribed to treat bacterial infections that may result from myiasis.

Treatment and Control (cont.)

Preventive measures play a crucial role in controlling and preventing myiasis. Personal hygiene is a vital preventive measure against myiasis. Regular bathing, changing clothes, and washing hands before eating or handling food can help prevent the accumulation of dirt and moisture on the skin, which can attract flies. Wearing protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts, trousers, and boots, can also reduce the risk of exposure to fly habitats.

Environmental management is another approach to controlling myiasis. This involves proper disposal of waste materials and cleaning of animal sheds and houses. Garbage should be disposed of in sealed containers, and animal waste should be removed and treated appropriately to prevent fly breeding. Fly control measures, such as insecticide spraying, larviciding, and fly traps, can also be used to reduce fly populations.

In cases of myiasis infestation, prompt and appropriate treatment is essential to prevent tissue damage and health complications. Infested wounds should be cleaned, debrided, and dressed to remove the larvae and prevent secondary infections. Antibiotics may be prescribed to treat bacterial infections that may result from myiasis. In severe cases, surgery may be required to remove the larvae and affected tissue.

Conclusion

Myiasis is a preventable parasitic infestation caused by the larvae of dipterous flies. Poor personal hygiene, untreated wounds, exposure to fly habitats, and underlying medical conditions are predisposing factors that increase the risk of myiasis. Preventive measures such as proper hygiene, wound care, and environmental management are essential in controlling and preventing myiasis. Prompt and appropriate treatment of infested wounds is crucial in preventing tissue damage and health complications. Proper education and awareness about myiasis can help prevent its occurrence and reduce its impact on affected individuals.

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