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## Unusual presentation of a relatively “NOW” common disease

Scrub Typhus or Bush Typhus is a form of typhus caused by the intracellular parasite “*Orientia tsutsugamushi*”, a gram negative alpha proteo bacterium belonging to the family of rickettsiaceae first isolated in Japan in 1930. It is transmitted by the bite of trombiculid mites- Chiggers which are found in areas of scrub vegetation. At the site of chigger bite, develops the characteristic lesion known as “Eschar” on the skin surface.

A 72 year old male patient, with history of diabetes, presented to the emergency department with fever for seven days, no appetite and swelling of both ankles. Investigations revealed that the patient had evidence of acute renal failure and hepatitis. Scrub typhus was suspected, but there was no evidence of an eschar. Upon enquiring from the patient further, it was found that he resided in an area infested with scrub vegetation. Hence advised scrub typhus antibody titres which were found to be highly reactive. The patient was started with the drug of choice doxycycline which showed tremendous results in the following days. During the patient’s stay at the hospital, he developed an acute heart condition (PSVT- Paroxysmal Supraventricular Tachycardia) which was reverted by injection of adenosine.

Scrub typhus has symptoms which mimics several medical conditions like Acute Heart Failure, ARDS, Tubercular Meningitis, Viral Hepatitis (A,E), Acute Renal Failure, Dengue and malaria. If left undiagnosed in severe conditions it can also lead to heart failure/ multi-organ dysfunction. It is important that we address the basics at the time of diagnosis and take a holistic approach instead of chasing the cause of each condition if presented with many conditions as this. In this case too, renal failure, hepatitis and PSVT were caused by scrub typhus. The complications resolved once treatment with doxycycline had been started. Currently patient has completely recovered from all the medical conditions developed due to scrub typhus and is now leading a normal life.

We call this case unusual as because - all the medical conditions which occurred due to scrub typhus were evident, but there was no evidence of an eschar.