**Letter to the Editor: Morgellons Disease in an HIV Patient**

Dear Editor,

We present a case that highlights the rare manifestation of Morgellons disease in a patient with HIV, suggesting a possible link between the two conditions.

Morgellons disease is a controversial condition often classified as a delusional disorder, where patients report sensations of crawling or creeping under the skin and believe inanimate objects like threads or wires are the cause. Though its etiology is debated, recent studies suggest infectious agents, particularly Lyme disease, substance use, and psychological factors like access to health-related information on the Internet, as potential contributors.1,2 However, awareness among dermatologists remains low, leading to delayed treatment and decreased quality of life for patients.3

We report the case of a 38-year-old male HIV patient on antiretroviral therapy (ART) for 8 years, who presented with a two-year history of crawling sensations and a belief that white threads were emerging from his chin. Despite a normal CD4 count (961) and no history of substance use, Lyme disease, or prior online searches about his condition, the patient was diagnosed with Morgellons disease. Psychiatric evaluation revealed moderate depression and severe anxiety. Treatment with risperidone and sertraline was initiated, resulting in significant symptom improvement.

The link between HIV and new-onset psychosis is not well understood but is thought to involve direct viral effects on the central nervous system, ART drug side effects, or the stress of living with HIV.4-7 In our patient, long-term ART may have insufficiently penetrated latent cells, contributing to psychotic symptoms. Moreover, psychosis can occur in HIV patients even with normal CD4 levels, suggesting the virus crosses the blood-brain barrier, affecting CNS cells.6,7

This case underscores the importance of considering Morgellons disease as a possible psychotic manifestation in HIV patients, particularly when other etiological factors are absent. With the global rise of HIV, awareness of this association may help improve diagnosis and treatment. A multidisciplinary approach involving dermatology, psychiatry, and neurology could significantly enhance patient outcomes.

Sincerely,  
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