

Results | Twenty-three of 200 (11.5%) LST larvae attached to 8 of the 10 participants during the 15-minute period. Tick attachment could easily be verified by observing the splayed palps and inserted hypostome (Figure 1B). On 1 research participant, there was immediate lesion development—two 1- to 2-mm erythematous macules (Figure 2A)—while 5 other participants developed erythematous pruritic papules within 48 hours (Figure 2B). In the participant who developed immediate lesions, these 2 macules became papulovesicular within 48 hours (Figure 2C), as did 3 other lesions on the same person on the other arm (Figure 2D).

Discussion | We show here that tissue damage from insertion of LST mouthparts and degranulating mast cells may be evident in as little as 15 minutes and may manifest as macules, papules, or vesicles. A previous study⁶ showed that *A americanum* was the predominant species found attached to humans in Mississippi during a 10-year time span, and 10 of 36 (27.8%) LST larvae found on humans were either partially or completely engorged. That study, as well as these new data, indicate that the LST is an aggressive human-biting tick species that may readily produce cutaneous lesions in humans.

Jerome Goddard, PhD
J. Santos Portugal, BS

Author Affiliations: Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State.

Accepted for Publication: June 15, 2015.

Corresponding Author: Jerome Goddard, PhD, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, PO Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (jgoddard@entomology.msstate.edu).

Published Online: August 26, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2015.2388.

Author Contributions: Dr Goddard and Mr Santos Portugal had full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Study concept and design: Goddard.

Acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of data: All authors.

Drafting of the manuscript: All authors.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Goddard.

Administrative, technical, or material support: All authors.

Study supervision: All authors.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

Additional Information: This article has been approved for publication as Journal Article No. J-12667 of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State University.

Additional Contributions: Michael Levin, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provided the ticks used in this study. Dr Levin was not financially compensated.

- Francischetti IM, Sa-Nunes A, Mans BJ, Santos IM, Ribeiro JM. The role of saliva in tick feeding. *Front Biosci (Landmark Ed)*. 2009;14:2051-2088.
- Kazimírová M, Štibrániová I. Tick salivary compounds: their role in modulation of host defences and pathogen transmission. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol*. 2013;3:43.
- Fisher EJ, Mo J, Lucky AW. Multiple pruritic papules from lone star tick larvae bites. *Arch Dermatol*. 2006;142(4):491-494.
- Radulović ZM, Kim TK, Porter LM, Sze SH, Lewis L, Mulenga A. A 24-48 h fed *Amblyomma americanum* tick saliva immuno-proteome. *BMC Genomics*. 2014;15:518.
- Commins SP, Platts-Mills TA. Tick bites and red meat allergy. *Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2013;13(4):354-359.

- Goddard J. A ten-year study of tick biting in Mississippi: implications for human disease transmission. *J Agromedicine*. 2002;8(2):25-32.

The Accuracy of Diagnosis of an Online Consultation Service Compared With Physical Consultation With a Dermatologist

The division of Clinical Telemedicine at University Hospital Zürich in Switzerland has run an email-based online consultation service for laymen since 1999, offering a physical consultation when deemed appropriate.¹ We compared the adequacy of online diagnosis with the benchmark of an in-person dermatological consultation.

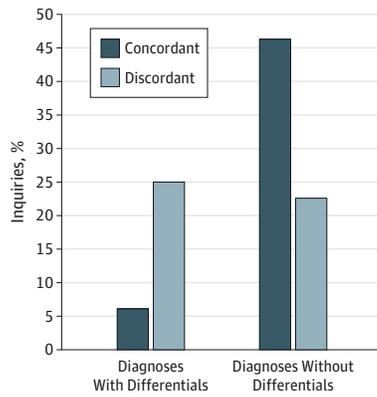
Methods | A retrospective review was performed for inquiries from June 2007 through September 2013. Paired online and physical consultations with a dermatologist after referral were included after institutional review board approval (NCT01969422). The institutional review board requested that patients be informed about a right to veto, which none exercised. Diagnoses were classified according to the dermatological diagnostic index developed by the German Dermatological Society DDG expanding the classifications of the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision*.² Concordance was defined as a matching of digits of the index code, resulting in 6 groups. IBM SPSS 22 software was used for descriptive statistics, χ^2 , and Kendall τ . $P < .05$ was considered significant.

Results | One hundred two submissions (32 with photographs) were referred for dermatological consultation. A total of 88 patients presented, and 82 patients (median [SD] age, 38 [17] years, 41 [50%] male) were included. Diagnostic concordance was evenly distributed from low to high ($\chi^2 P = .16$). A lack of differentials online ($\chi^2 P = .001$), as well as on physical consultation ($\chi^2 P < .001$), was associated with diagnostic concordance (Figure 1), but neither photograph submission, prediagnosed conditions, nor personal or family history information was significant (Kendall $\tau P = .80, P = .04, P = .30, P = .16$, respectively). The kind of physician contact was associated with diagnostic concordance ($\chi^2 P = .02$) (Figure 2). In 37 cases (42%), a second diagnosis was made at physical consultation.

The online and physical consultation diagnoses were concordant in 52% ($n = 43$, missing data $n = 6$) and enlarged concordant in 66% ($n = 54$, missing data $n = 6$). The patients' dermatological problems were complex (53 [60%] had already visited a physician). Other studies show concordance or enlarged concordance rates from 47% to 89%, while a concordance rate greater than 60% is deemed reliable in teledermatology.³⁻⁶

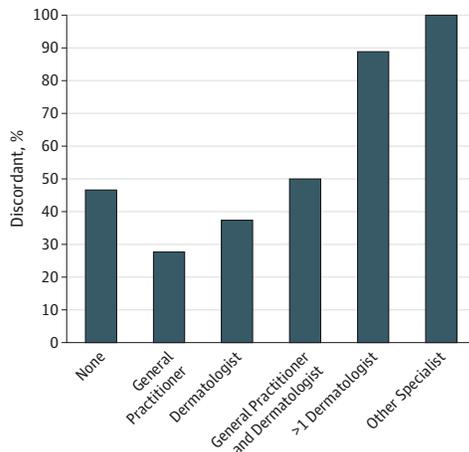
Discussion | Previous physician contact was not associated with diagnostic concordance except in cases in which more than 1 dermatologist or another specialist was visited. None of the information provided by users was associated with diagnostic concordance. Other studies did not look at this association of information provided and diagnostic concordance, but reported that a thorough history as such increases diagnostic concordance for clinical photographs from 57% to 70%.⁴⁻⁶ We noted

Figure 1. Differential Diagnoses and Concordance



The mention of differential diagnosis is inversely associated with diagnostic concordance. The graph shows the distribution of all cases with concordant and discordant diagnosis divided into those with and without mention of differential diagnosis. Data are plotted for both online and physical consultations together for clarity's sake, with both kinds of consultations showing a clear association (online differentials, $\chi^2 P = .001$; consultation differentials, $\chi^2 P < .001$).

Figure 2. Type of Physician Contact and Diagnostic Concordance



The type of previous physician contact is associated with discordance of diagnosis between online and physical consultation. Previous physician contacts were categorized as no physician contact, contact with a general practitioner only, a dermatologist only, both a general practitioner and a dermatologist, more than 1 dermatologist, and with another specialist. Data are shown for 80 patients; data were missing for 8 patients ($\chi^2 P = .02$).

absence of differential diagnosis as a factor in diagnostic confidence in both online ($\chi^2 P = .001$) and physical consultation ($P < .001$).^{4,5} In 37 cases (42%), a second diagnosis was made during the physical consultation, with 1 basal cell and 1 squamous epithelial carcinoma diagnosed at consultation. The limitations of our study include its retrospective design, lack of randomization, and the limited patient numbers.

Evelyn Grünig, MMed
 Sabine Schmidt-Weitmann, MD
 Christiane Brockes-Bracht, MD
 Günther F. L. Hofbauer, MD

Author Affiliations: Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland (Grünig, Hofbauer); Department of Clinical Telemedicine, University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland (Schmidt-Weitmann, Brockes-Bracht).

Accepted for Publication: June 19, 2015.

Corresponding Author: Günther F. L. Hofbauer, MD, Dermatologische Klinik, Universitätsspital Zürich, Gloriastrasse 31, 8091 Zürich, Switzerland (hofbauer@usz.ch).

Published Online: September 16, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2015.2537.

Author Contributions: Ms Grünig and Dr Hofbauer had full access to all of the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. Ms Grünig and Dr Schmidt-Weitmann served as co-first authors, each with equal contribution to the manuscript. Drs Brockes-Bracht and Hofbauer served as co-last authors, each with equal contribution to the manuscript.

Study concept and design: All authors.

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: Grünig, Brockes-Bracht, Hofbauer.

Drafting of the manuscript: Grünig, Brockes-Bracht, Hofbauer.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: All authors.

Statistical analysis: Grünig.

Obtained funding: Brockes-Bracht, Hofbauer.

Administrative, technical, or material support: Brockes-Bracht, Hofbauer.

Study supervision: Schmidt-Weitmann, Brockes-Bracht, Hofbauer.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

- Hofbauer GF, Bühler RP, French LE, Brockes M, Scheuer E. Patient-centered care in dermatology: an online system that provides accessible and appropriate information to guide patients' decision making. *Arch Dermatol.* 2008;144(9):1225-1227.
- Henseler T, Weichenthal M. *Dermatologischer Diagnosenkatalog mit ICD-10-Schlüssel. Ambulante Versorgung.* Bern, Switzerland; Göttingen, Germany; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Seattle, WA: Verlag Hans Huber; 2002.
- Romero G, Cortina P, Vera E. Telemedicine and teledermatology (II): current state of research on dermatology teleconsultations [in Spanish]. *Actas Dermosifiliogr.* 2008;99(8):586-597.
- Leshner JL Jr, Davis LS, Gourdin FW, English D, Thompson WO. Telemedicine evaluation of cutaneous diseases: a blinded comparative study. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 1998;38(1):27-31.
- Pak HS, Harden D, Cruess D, Welch ML, Poropatich R; National Capital Area Teledermatology Consortium. Teledermatology: an intraobserver diagnostic correlation study, part II. *Cutis.* 2003;71(6):476-480.
- Whited JD, Hall RP, Simel DL, et al. Reliability and accuracy of dermatologists' clinic-based and digital image consultations. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 1999;41(5, pt 1):693-702.

Influence of Fcγ Receptor Polymorphisms on Response to Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Treatment in Psoriasis

Biological agents have greatly improved the prognosis of psoriasis. However, these treatments are expensive, and 20% to 50% of patients do not achieve an adequate clinical response.¹ Therefore, identifying the biomarkers that predict the response could lead to individualized, more effective treatments.¹

The anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) agents are the group of biological drugs most frequently used to treat psoriasis. Their Fc portion binds specifically to cell-surface Fcγ receptors (FCGR). These receptors may influence the immune response and half-life of the drug.² Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) at genes encoding these receptors are related to differences in their affinity and effector properties.² The SNP *FCGR2A* (ENSG00000143226) rs1801274 A/G (amino acid 131 His or Arg) and *FCGR3A* (ENSG00000203747) rs396991 T/G (Phe or Val at position 158) might confer a higher affinity for IgG binding.