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Orf (contagious ecthyma) transmitted by a cat

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KEYWORDS

cat, contagious ecthyma, ecthyma contagiosum, orf, vector

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IMAGING DIAGNOSIS

A 65-year-old woman presented with a 6-cm umbilicated lesion on the forearm (Figure 1), which was evolving for a few days. Orf was clinically diagnosed. There was no viral sample. The patient had not been in contact with any goats or sheep. However, she reported having been in contact with a cat presenting with scabbed sores around the right ear (Figure 2) 4 weeks earlier. This cat was leaving in a house next to a farm with ewes and lambs, that could have been in contact with this cat. Lesions spontaneously disappeared in the cat and in our

patient in 4 weeks, with a very discrete scar. We concluded that orf was transmitted by this cat.

Orf is usually transmitted by sheep and goats.¹ We found only three cases of orf in cats² in the literature, all involving close contact of cats with sheep or goats. Only one case of cat-to-human transmission³ has been noted, linked to a cat scratch.

The main differential diagnosis would be cowpox/catpox'.^{4,5} In this disease, the human patients present with large painful papules which progresses to ulceration and necrosis with thick, hard, black crusts and flu-like symptoms, which was not the case in our patient.

V. Laumondais wrote the paper and performed the literature review, M. Delhomme provided the case and L. Misery made the diagnosis and supervised the work.

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FIGURE 1 Orf lesion on the forearm of the patient.

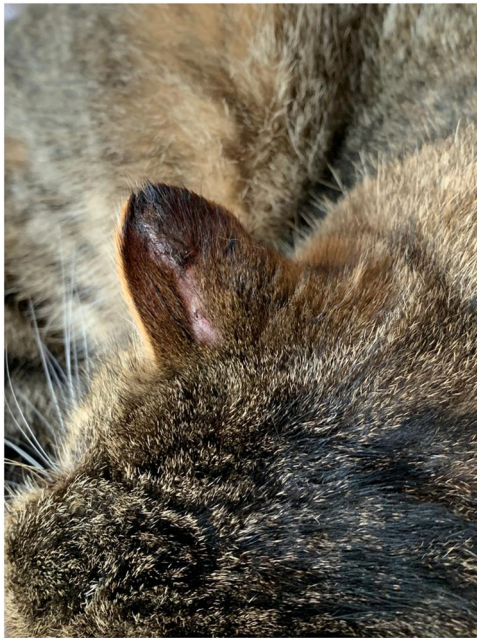


FIGURE 2 Orf lesion on the ear of the cat.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Victoire Laumondais and Laurent Misery have written the paper. Muriel Delhomme and Laurent Misery performed the diagnosis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The patient has given written informed consent for participation in the study and the use of her deidentified, anonymized, aggregated data and her case details (including photographs) for publication.

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