



Alternative cellular energy pigments mistaken for parasitic skin infestations

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Abstract

Dermatologists and psychiatrists occasionally encounter patients who believe they are infested with skin parasites. They may report seeing threads, fibers and more solid appearing particles attached to their skin and hair, or appearing on clean bed sheets after sleeping. Some of the particles move spontaneously suggesting a life form. Similar structures develop in long-term cultures of stealth-adapted viruses. They are termed alternative cellular energy pigments (ACE pigments) since they appear to provide a non-mitochondria source of cellular energy that can assist in cellular repair from the virus cytopathic effect (CPE). Particles obtained from the skin of stealth virus culture-positive patients can also display auto-fluorescence and electrostatic properties. Some of the particles are magnetic and can generate gas in an aqueous solution. They also lead to the production of lipid-like crystals similar to those produced in long-term cultures of stealth-adapted viruses. It is proposed that skin-derived particles that form in some of the patients assumed to be experiencing a delusional parasitosis are, in reality, a reflection of the body's production of ACE pigments.

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Introduction

Over the last several years, I have encountered several patients who have described unusual solid and thread-like particles arising from their skin and which occasionally appeared to move spontaneously, as if alive. The patients were concerned that they may be infected with some form of skin parasite. Other patients have noted unusual particles in their bed sheets, and in bath water that has been undisturbed for several hours following bathing. One patient who slept on a magnetic mattress noted that some of the particles were attaching to the mattress as if they were magnetic. Several of these patients were also being seen by psychiatrists and were given a clinical diagnosis of delusional parasitosis (Bhatia et al. 2000; Goddard, 1995; Zomer et al., 1998).

The particles collected by these patients were morphologically similar to structures that form in long-term

cultures of a grouping of viruses that cause persistent infections in humans and animals (Martin, 2003a). These viruses have been termed stealth-adapted because they lack the relatively few virus components that are normally targeted by an anti-virus cellular immune response (Martin, 1994, 1999; Martin et al., 1994). The viruses do not propagate well in tissue cultures because of a cellular repair process that coincides with the formation of pigmented materials that can take various forms including solid conglomerates of minute particles, long threads and shorter ribbon-like structures. Most of the solid structures are black, whereas the ribbons and threads can show a wide diversity of colors including blue, yellow, green, brown, red or are translucent. While their compositions are still unknown, they do contain various types of minerals that vary considerably between different particles even when collected from a single culture (Martin, 2003a). Individual threads and ribbons can occasionally be seen forming instantaneously as if by a very rapid self-assembly process. Fibrous threads have also been observed emerging from

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more solid particles present in long-term virus cultures (Martin, 2003a).

The particles are typically auto-fluorescent with both red and green emissions evoked by ultraviolet light. Isolated particles can exhibit electrostatic attractions and repulsions and can also occasionally display ferromagnetism. They can vibrate in response to certain sound frequencies and can also donate electrons to tetrazolium salts. The replacement of

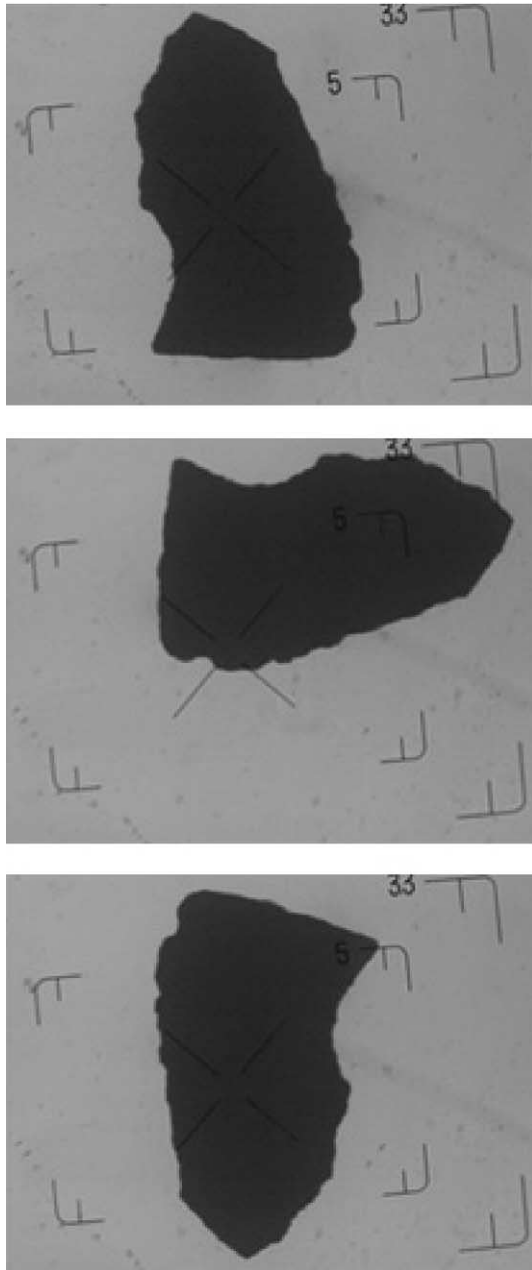


Fig. 1. Magnetic rotation of a skin-derived particle suspended in distilled water. The particle was viewed with an inverted microscope using a 10× objective. The small hand held magnet of 80 gauss was moved to within 3–5 in. of the water droplet containing the particle. The particle showed magnetic polarization with the top and the base showing opposing attraction or repulsion depending upon which pole of the magnet was pointing towards the particle. The particle was rotated by simply moving the magnet.

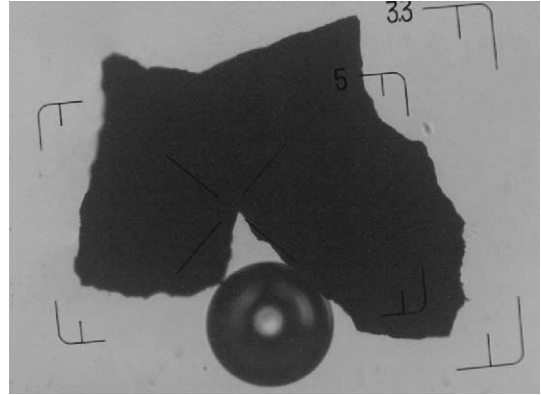


Fig. 2. Formation of a gas bubble between two magnetically attached particles. The particle shown in Fig. 1, magnetically attached itself to another magnetic particle from the same patient. A gas bubble began to appear that slowly increased in size over the period of approximately 1 h. Gas formation by solitary particles has also been observed.

virus culture supernatants containing these structures with fresh medium leads to a rapid reactivation of the virus CPE, whereas inclusion of particles in the fresh re-feeding virus culture medium suppresses the reactivation (Martin, 2003a).

Cultures of cells infected with stealth-adapted viruses commonly contain numerous needle-shaped crystals of apparent lipid composition (Martin, 2003a). Needle production continues even in the absence of viable cells and is attributed to a synthetic process presumably related to the presence of ACE pigments. It appears that ACE-pigments may be providing an energy source for simple hydrocarbon synthesis that is somewhat comparable to the role of chlorophyll in carbohydrate synthesis.

Complex intracellular structures have also been observed within cells seen on brain biopsies of stealth-adapted virus infected individuals (Martin, 2003b). Many of the cells show very extensive disruption of their mitochondria, the major normal source of cellular energy. This observation provides further support for the role of these structures as an alternative (non-mitochondria) source of cellular energy.

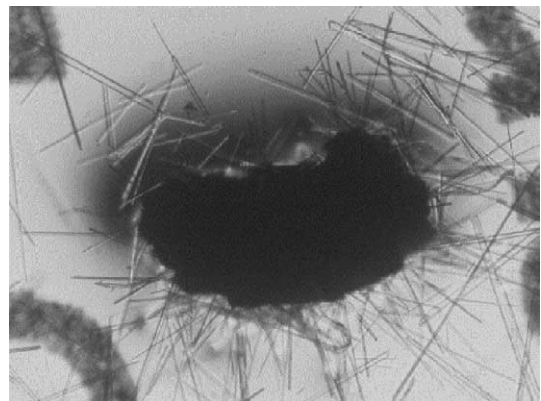


Fig. 3. Formation of numerous needle shaped crystals around a patient-derived particle placed on an agar plate. The needles formed over several days and are similar to those seen in cultures of stealth-adapted viruses (Martin, 2003a).

Results

A series of studies have been performed on pigmented materials collected from both dried perspiration and skin lesions of patients shown by cultures to be infected with stealth-adapted viruses. These studies have confirmed the overall similarities of these particles with those obtained from long-term cultures of stealth-adapted viruses. Specifically, the patient-derived particles are auto-fluorescent, electrostatic, occasionally magnetic, and have electron donating and electron accepting capacities. Readily visible particles are conglomerates of microscopic elements, yielding a very fine speckled pattern on fluorescent microscopy. The ferromagnetism of some of the particles can be easily demonstrated by their rotation in a liquid medium using a hand-held magnet (Fig. 1). Gas bubble formation has also been observed even in distilled water with patient's skin-derived particles (Fig. 2). Even more striking has been the formation of needle shaped structures similar to those seen in long-term cultures of stealth-adapted viruses (Fig. 3). Colorful auto-fluorescent fibers and thread-like structures can commonly be seen emerging from the more solid particles. Fibers and threads embedded in skin flakes from several patients can be viewed on internet at www.morgellons.org and related patients' directed sites.

Discussion

Several patients have felt a sense of itchiness in their skin that they have attributed to these particles. Some have been told they have delusional parasitosis (Bhatia et al. 2000; Goddard, 1995; Zomer et al., 1998). Other patients have been told they have head lice because of particles attached to their scalp hair. They can be readily observed on patients using an ultraviolet light and their fluorescence visualization can be further enhanced using dyes such as neutral red (Martin and Stoneburner, 2005). Several conscientious patients have photographed and even video recorded some of the skin-derived structures. Video recordings can reveal both rapid jerky displacements of the particles as well as slow coiling and uncoiling of colored fibers. Fibers and threads have also been observed emerging from the more solid particles and intertwining into arrays suggestive of functional electronic devices. As shown in this paper, some particles can induce gas formation from water and can also lead to the synthesis of fine needle-shaped crystals. These

observations are consistent with the suggestion that ACE pigments reflect a pre-chlorophyll form of physical to chemical energy transduction. They may help explain the paradox that if chlorophyll were to be the only mechanism of converting physical to biological energy, then where did Nature get the energy to produce chlorophyll?

The forces acting on ACE pigments may well extend beyond conventional static electricity and electromagnetism. Mineral analyses of particles attached to a single hair shaft have shown distinctly different compositions, possibly implying that some type of mineral specific affinity force is operative in the self-assembly process. The particles may also emit novel forms of chemical and cellular energies for which detection methods have yet to be developed. ACE pigment particles should be of interest to those engaged in the emerging science of nanotechnology.

Ultraviolet light exposure of patients' hair and skin can provide a useful screening test for the presence of ACE pigments. Such demonstrations can also help reassure the patient that he or she is not delusional, but rather has uncovered a process that may have originally reflected the body's attempt to acquire an additional source of cellular energy.

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