



Myiasis and its management

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Abstract

A parasite illness called myiasis is brought on by dipterous larvae that eat the living or dead tissues of vertebrates, including people. Myiasis is a significant economic and public health concern worldwide. This article provides an overview of the types of myiasis, their epidemiology, and management strategies. Prevention and control measures are also discussed.

Introduction

Fly larvae infestation in the tissues or organs of vertebrates, including humans, results in the disorder known as myiasis. It is a common disease in both developed and developing countries and can cause significant morbidity and mortality in humans and livestock. Myiasis is a condition that can be brought on by the larvae of different fly species, and the clinical signs and symptoms vary depending on the type of larvae involved, the area of infestation, and the host's immune system. Myiasis can be classified into three main types based on the location of the infestation: cutaneous, subcutaneous, and visceral myiasis. The severity of myiasis depends on the type and extent of tissue damage caused by the larvae, the host's immune status, and the secondary bacterial infections.

There are various myiasis types. Cutaneous myiasis happens when fly larvae infest a host's skin. The larvae typically feed on dead or necrotic tissues, causing a localized inflammatory reaction. Common species causing cutaneous myiasis include the screwworm fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and the human botfly (*Dermatobia hominis*). Subcutaneous myiasis occurs when larvae invade the subcutaneous tissues, causing pain, swelling, and a palpable mass. Common species causing subcutaneous myiasis include the warble fly (*Hypoderma bovis*) and the human botfly (*Dermatobia hominis*). Visceral myiasis occurs when larvae invade internal organs, causing significant damage and potential organ failure. The tumbu fly (*Cordylobia anthropophaga*) and the human botfly are the most often encountered species that cause visceral myiasis (*Dermatobia hominis*).

Management of Myiasis

The management of myiasis depends on the type and extent of tissue damage caused by the larvae. Treatment typically involves the removal of the larvae and the debridement of the affected tissue. Antibiotic therapy is often necessary to prevent secondary bacterial infections. Prevention of myiasis



can be achieved through various methods, including improved hygiene, use of insect repellents, and prompt treatment of open wounds. In livestock, fly control measures such as insecticides and larvicides are essential to prevent myiasis.

Conclusion

Myiasis is a significant public health and economic concern worldwide. The severity of myiasis depends on the type and extent of tissue damage caused by the larvae, the host's immune status, and the secondary bacterial infections. Prevention and control measures such as improved hygiene, use of insect repellents, and prompt treatment of open wounds can prevent myiasis. Proper management of livestock, including fly control measures, is essential to prevent myiasis in animals.

References

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