

Keep your English up to scratch!...

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Dear readers,

Are you ready to brush up your dermatological English? It is our very great pleasure to present the twenty-first English corner based on **Erysipeloid**. Don't forget you can use a dictionary to help you with the text, and of course, you should visit our website at <http://anglaismedical.u-bourgogne.fr/> to work on your pronunciation or build your medical vocabulary. The site also includes a talking dictionary, medical videos, exercises, clinical cases, words and expressions for specialists...

Erysipeloid

Erysipeloid, also called swine¹ erysipelas, is an occupational² disease found in people handling³ raw⁴ meat or fish or animals. It therefore affects butchers, slaughterhouse⁵ workers, fishermen⁶ and fishmongers⁷, veterinary surgeons and farmers, for example. It is caused by infection with *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*, a gram-positive rod-shaped⁸ aerobe, which is carried by freshwater and saltwater fish, lobsters⁹, pigs, poultry¹⁰ and rabbits, in particular. In addition, it can persist in contaminated soil, animal skins and fur¹¹ for long periods. The germ penetrates the body principally via cuts or abrasions on the hand, and the incubation period is from 2 to 7 days. It has also been reported following cat or dog bites¹².

The clinical presentation of these infections is characteristic: well-defined, indurated inflammatory plaques, which are dark red or purple in colour and may have a diamond-like configuration. Patients may complain of pain and a throbbing¹³ or burning sensation and their fingers may be extremely swollen¹⁴. The web¹⁵ areas of the fingers are often affected. There may be vesicles

present, but there is no suppuration. The cellulitis is usually self-limiting, but in rare cases, the patient may show diffuse lesions and fever as well as joint and muscle pain, in which case, septicaemia must be suspected.

The patient's history¹⁶ and clinical signs are usually enough to make the diagnosis. Laboratory findings¹⁷ will show leucocytosis and increased inflammation markers (ESR¹⁸, CRP).

The bacterium is very difficult to culture, and many microbiology labs are not equipped to isolate it. Differential diagnoses include contact dermatitis and erysipelas; however, the former¹⁹ is associated with intense itching²⁰ and the latter²¹ occurs mainly on the face or legs and is accompanied by fever.

As mentioned above²², the lesion is mostly self-limiting, and the infection will resolve without treatment within three weeks. Nonetheless²³, treatment is recommended to hasten²⁴ healing²⁵ and to reduce the risk of systemic spread²⁶. Most isolates of *E. rhusiopathiae* are susceptible to²⁷ penicillin, and oral doxycycline and minocycline are usually effective²⁸. It is worth noting²⁹, however, that this organism is inherently resistant to vancomycin, which should therefore not be used as an empirical treatment. The symptoms usually clear up³⁰ shortly after the end of the course of antibiotic therapy³¹ and relapse³² is quite rare.

The main concern³³ of practitioners is to ensure that the patient does not develop systemic disease.

1. pig (= porc)
2. professional (= professionnelle)
3. touching, in contact with (= manipulant)
4. uncooked (= cru)
5. abattoir (= abattoir)
6. fish-catcher (= pêcheur)
7. fish-seller (= poissonnier)
8. in the form of a stick (= en forme de bâtonnet)
9. homarus (= homard)

10. chicken, duck... (= volaille)
11. animal hair (= fourrure)
12. injuries caused by teeth (= morsures)
13. pulsating (= pulsatile)
14. oedematous (= gonflés)
15. interdigital areas (= commissures interdigitales)
16. anamnesis (= antécédents)
17. results (= résultats)
18. erythrocyte sedimentation rate (= VS)
19. the first (= le premier)
20. pruritis (= démangeaison)
21. the last (= le dernier)
22. as stated previously (= comme vu ci-dessus)
23. accelerate (= accélérer)
24. recovery (= guérison)
25. propagation (= propagation)
26. sensitive to (= sensible à)
27. efficacious (= efficace)
28. interestingly (= il est intéressant de noter)
29. resolve (= se dissiper)
30. the full treatment (= le traitement)
31. recurrence (= récurrence)
32. preoccupation (= préoccupation)

Exercice 1. Can you find the English equivalent of these diseases? The name includes an animal.

1. la maladie des griffes du chat
2. la varicelle
3. la grippe porcine
4. la maladie de la vache folle
5. la dermatophytose
6. la grippe aviaire
7. la variole du singe
8. fièvre par morsure de rat
9. syndrome des larmes de crocodile

1. cat-scratch disease
2. chickenpox
3. swine flu
4. mad cow disease
5. ringworm
6. bird flu
7. monkey pox
8. rat bite fever
9. crocodile tears syndrome

English corner

Exercise 2. A quick revision of some common irregular verbs. Complete the following table.

French		Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle
trouver			found	
enfler				swollen
montrer	to show			
se propager				spread
oublier	to forget			
mener, conduire	to lead			
tomber				fallen
se sentir				felt
apporter	to bring			
chercher	to seek			
coller				stuck

coller	to stick	stuck	stuck
chercher	to seek	sought	sought
apporter	to bring	brought	brought
se sentir	to feel	felt	felt
tomber	to fall	fell	fallen
mener, conduire	to lead	led	led
oublier	to forget	forgot	forgotten
se propager	to spread	spread	spread
montrer	to show	showed	shown
enfler	to swell	swelled	swollen
trouver	to find	found	found
French	Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle