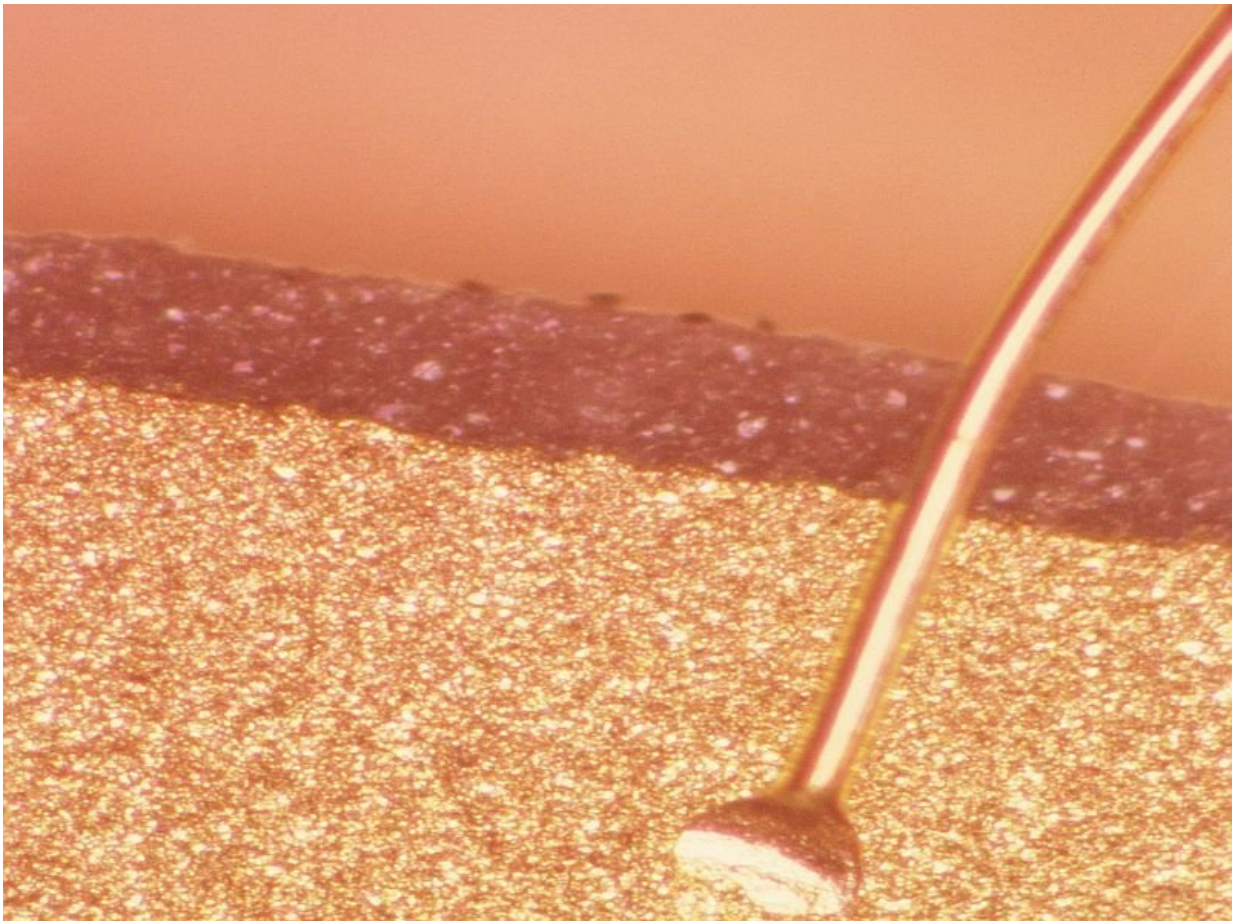


Two cases of progressive cutaneous anthrax described

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(HealthDay)—Two cases of cutaneous anthrax which started on the right

forearm and progressed are described in a case report published online Dec. 12 in the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

Hai-Ling Yuan, from Lanzhou General Hospital in China, and colleagues present two cases of human cutaneous anthrax that began in the right forearm and progressed. The [patients](#) were both bitten by mosquitos—one while in contact with a sick cow and the other while slaughtering infected cattle.

The authors note that the first patient had a red pustule on his forearm, which swelled and blistered. After admission, he received penicillin G; magnesium isoglycyrrhizinate was added following elevation of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). The edema on the patient's hand did not totally regress at the fourth week of [therapy](#) and a black eschar remained. The second patient developed a small erythema lesion with itching, which worsened to a wound, causing swelling and multiple bullae. He received cephalosporin antibiotics. Following further testing that revealed elevated white blood cell count, C-reactive protein, and AST and ALT, the patient was given penicillin G, levofloxacin, and methylprednisolone; glycyrrhizin was also added. The edema on the patient's arm completely resolved after treatment for four weeks, but there was still [edema](#) on the hand.

"Clinical and experimental comparative studies are needed for steroid therapy and the duration of antibiotic therapy in complicated [cases](#) of naturally acquired cutaneous anthrax," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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