



HOLY C.O.W.!

IT'S...

Clinical Question of the Week #26
January 5th, 2009 through January 12th,
2009



Happy New Year! Please e-mail your answers to Kuo, Tim, Wendy, and Kevin (klian@mednet.ucla.edu; tprovias@mednet.ucla.edu; wsimon@mednet.ucla.edu; kbreger@mednet.ucla.edu) by 0800 on Monday, January 12th, 2009. The resident or intern with the most correct answers at the end of each month will receive a prize!

Case: A 32-year-old man presents to clinic with one week of pruritic rash on his right lower extremity. He had recently taken some time away from his residency interviews and traveled for two weeks to Puerto Rico on a medical mission over the holidays. During his time there, he had also had some relaxation time on the beach with his significant other. He has no other medical problems and had not had any other exposures to chemicals, materials, new detergents or soaps. He is not on any medications. Physical examination is unremarkable with the exception of the finding shown in the image below. He reports that the rash is terribly itchy and is worried that it might be spreading.



Photo taken of the patient's medial right lower leg.

Questions:

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. Name the causative agent and briefly describe the pathogenesis of the condition.
3. What is the primary risk factor for the condition? Predominant geographic regions?
4. What is the treatment?