

An Octogenarian Intellectual/Artist Experiences a Multi-Stage Psychological Infestation of the Face and then the Body, Struggling to Access Medical Care in a Major City in Western France

Scharbach Hugues*

M.D. PARIS's University, Neuro-psychiatrist, Pedo-Psychiatrist, Past Chief of Psychiatric Service in C.H.R.U., Doctor of Psychology, National

***Corresponding Author:** Scharbach Hugues, M.D. PARIS's University, Neuro-psychiatrist, Pedo-Psychiatrist, Past Chief of Psychiatric Service in C.H.R.U., Doctor of Psychology, National Expert Honorary, France.

Received: June 22, 2026; **Published:** September 02, 2026

Abstract

Invited by a scientific group to give a lecture on one of the favorite themes of Art Therapy, a historically pioneering field, this octogenarian had no idea of the extraordinary adventures that awaited him. A widower shortly after his retirement nearly two decades ago, having lost his eldest son a few years earlier to heart disease, and seeing his younger son only sporadically, deeply involved in his chemical business and family life, he devoted much of his time to researching art history in various countries where it had flourished, particularly within the library setting.

The recognized validity of his research led to invitations to give lectures on diverse academic topics in various locations, requiring travel that allowed him to deepen his knowledge in museums of great cultural significance. His most recent trip, for example, had taken him to the galleries of the renowned Chicago Institute of Art and the M.E.T. in NYC.

Keywords: *Senior; Always Relevant Active in his Research Field; Medical Adventure - Skin disorders caused by a mite vector - atypical acararian type - difficulties to get a taking in charge in the frame of the parasitological context-diagnostic odyssey*

Introduction

To makes a presentation of this octogenarian scholar patient: he was an authentic searcher and his works were notably bas on historical genesis of psychopathological expression in the frame of mental asylum and later on the appearance of RAW ART. His typical references were particularly based on historical pictures. They remained based on the works of Adolphe Wölfl collected by Morgenthaler at the Waldau, those exhibited at the Museum of Art Brut in Lausanne (Switzerland), in Heidelberg by Hans Prinzhorn and Sonnenstein (Germany), from the Sainte Anne workshop, such as J. Delay was to create the 1st Congress of Psychopathological Art, which became Art Brut...from Frida Kahlo for the brilliant painters of the beginning of the previous century, who would revolutionize Art and influence Abstract Surrealism, to the Memoirs of a Neurotic by D.P. Schreber, of J.J. Lequeu and his plans, of the postman Cheval, or even of the Sagrada Familia.

Medical parasitological event

Some weeks after being back of a congress, to which he had taken part as Keynote Speaker, Tiny blisters, each ending in a black dot, appeared on his face, especially on the right side, less a month after a shave by a barber before his speech.

They were also a lot of large, thick poorly maintained rugs in his house.

Citation: Scharbach Hugues. "An Octogenarian Intellectual/Artist Experiences a Multi-Stage Psychological Infestation of the Face and then the Body, Struggling to Access Medical Care in a Major City in Western France". *EC Psychology and Psychiatry* 15.4 (2026): 01-03.

In this context, as the skin problems persisted, even becoming widespread, and Hector, a spry octogenarian, began taking Ivermectin daily.

The opinion of a professor of parasitology working at a university center, though not yet a private practice, was sought.

This professor did not offer to see the patient but instead took a photograph and then requested a skin test, which came back negative.

The conclusion reached was that of a superinfection, especially since Hector, the patient, had shaved his head on April 1st before having to speak at a barber shop near the luxury hotel.

Nevertheless, a perceptive doctor prescribed ivermectin, with adjustments to the dosage, as well as antibiotic cream and an insect repellent. But the skin problems persisted, even becoming invasive, and Hector, a good octogenarian, began taking ivermectin daily.

Nevertheless, a perceptive doctor prescribed ivermectin, with adjustments to the dosage, as well as antibiotic cream and an insect repellent, repulsive. But the skin problems persisted, even becoming invasive, and Hector, a good octogenarian, began taking Ivermectin daily.

One Friday evening, feeling very anxious, having read that scabies could be fatal, as elderly people have weaker immune systems, he called the emergency medical services (SAMU), where he was told he could come in. Although he was told he could be contagious, no isolation measures were implemented, and even patients who had come for other reasons sat next to him.

Then a doctor arrived and told him that, since the emergency room was reserved for life-threatening cases, he had exhibited a behavioral disorder and therefore needed a psychological evaluation. His argument that one could die of scabies at 85 was ignored... He was kept until three in the morning, without being told what to do. Finally, a doctor came and, in a kind tone, told him that he should see a general practitioner in the future. When he asked to see a specialist, a doctor from SOS came to his door at 2 a.m. to tell him that he needed to have another skin sample taken. This was done two days later at the University Hospital of this large city in western France, without him knowing the results. Even worse, the doctors at the university dermatology department refused to see him on Monday and gave him the names of dermatologists in town, most of whom were women. No nurse was assigned to him to treat the sores covering his body, which required the possible removal of mites resembling small crabs or other worms. He has no treatment and ivermectin appears now dangerous, since He had neurological troubles, after he was dairy taking 5 pills once a day for 6 days, until he feels neurological sensitive pains at the level of the feet. A so long time is in fact really is not recommended, a time frame being planned. Between the sockets.

It appears that the diseased mites had been nesting for months in a mattress purchased at a sale. Although covered with a mattress protector, one side was open, and this opening was subsequently placed secondary inside the protector.

About a crazy therapeutical taking in charge

After contacting the emergency department of the university hospital in that major western city by phone and receiving an invitation to “come see us”, a team of three nurses examined the three growths on his right side; then a doctor arrived and told him, “It’s a behavioral issue; we only handle very serious cases here”. During this impromptu assessment, however, his attention was drawn to the black speck that was dangling there; as the patient detached it, the doctor cut the consultation short and told him to see a general practitioner... at midnight.

The SOS Médecins doctor who arrived at his home at 1:00 a.m.—faced with the massive spread of the mite bites—refused to step inside, declaring, “It’s scabies”.

Subsequent samples would show that it was neither scabies nor body lice.

It was a bad diagnose but the consequence of the harmful effect of a highly aggressive mite-type vector agent.

Finally, after a large extension following during many days of the stings and inflammations on the skin, with stress's feeling, Hector obtains a taking in charge in a dermatology-parasitology service, having progressed towards healing and wounds closure but following a drug-induced crisis. The worst part for him was being of self-inflicted injury [3], given how pronounced the scratch marks were and to get the proposition to take an atypical neuroleptic, which he wisely refused, to his own advantage. This decision appears always pertinent a month later.

Discussion

Screening for early signs of dementia—specifically Alzheimer's—has become routine among older adults; however, it must be conducted with careful regard for the individual's identity, as they may feel offended or diminished by the process, or even suffer a decline in condition due to the negative impact on self-esteem due to the conditions of the medical practice.

Cognitive impairments affect not only memory or word-finding abilities but also specific bodily functions—such as anosmia or hemisomatognosia—and relational capabilities, such as the ability to recognize faces (prosopagnosia).

Behavioral issues must also be interpreted with nuance, taking into account the liberties that some individuals—proud of their advancing age—may take out of egocentrism or a playful spirit. Finally, any apparent psychological rigidity should be respected, as it often serves a defensive purpose.

Conclusion

This story about difficulty to get adequate care shows that vectorial troubles are only a few recognize, when a medical service doesn't be close. Even, providing for isolation and assistance, as well as the contagiousness, are enough ignored. Failure to assist a person in distress, even in danger, who seems to be marginalized, abandoned.

Although there was not real parasitological examination, a M.D. indicated him that, if I would continue his request, he would got an psychiatric examination... Despite the real existence of bed bugs [1,2].

Bibliography

1. Scharbach Hugues. "Auto-mutilations et auto-offenses". PARIS; P.U.F.; Nodule (1986): 127.
2. Scharbach H. "Great old age: About seniors or forty's one an being autonomous; often alone; self-sufficient, active and always relevant, maturing, evolving, social, psychopathological aspect". *Journal of Clinical and Community Medicine* 4.5 (2022).
3. Scharbach H. "Auto-mutilations et auto-offenses: self-damage and self-injury". Coll. Nodules-P.U.F.; 131.

Volume 15 Issue 4 September 2026

©All rights reserved by Scharbach Hugues.