

## **Demodex, the movie**

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Demodex mites are the largest and most complex organisms of the human skin flora. Ocular demodicosis encompasses infestation by *Demodex folliculorum* around the roots and in the follicles of the eye lashes and by *Demodex brevis* in the meibomian and sebaceous glands. Demodex infestation of the eyelids is estimated to be highly prevalent, particularly in older individuals. Its pathogenic role in marginal blepharitis and meibomian gland dysfunction, either directly, or indirectly through bacterial endosymbiosis, is controversial.

We examined live Demodex mites ex vivo under the light microscope – by removing eye lashes from patients with marginal blepharitis and in controls. In this way, the particular walk of the *Demodex folliculorum* mite is demonstrated.