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# ACTAS Dermo-Sifiliográficas

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### [Translated article] Comment on “Epidemic Scabies: New Treatment Challenges in an Ancient Disease”



#### Comentario a «Epidemia de escabiosis: los nuevos retos de una enfermedad ancestral»

To the Editor,

We read with interest the article by Lluch-Galcerá et al.<sup>1</sup> on the current scabies epidemic. First, we would like to commend the authors on their excellent review of this topic. We would also like to add a small point and clarify a controversial issue regarding the use of oral ivermectin, which we think stems from a section of the summary of product characteristics that currently states “the influence of food on absorption is unknown”.<sup>2</sup>

The bioavailability of ivermectin is increased by the intake of food, particularly fatty food.<sup>3</sup> What differs in the studies published to date is the intensity of the effect, which ranges from zero to a 2.6-fold increase.<sup>4</sup> The discrepancies could be linked to the different doses of ivermectin used in the respective studies.<sup>4</sup>

In their article, Lluch-Galcerá et al.<sup>1</sup> indicate that ivermectin should be taken after fasting, and this is indeed stipulated in several guidelines, including the German guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of scabies.<sup>5</sup> Most authors, however, believe that ivermectin should be taken with fatty foods to increase its absorption and potential effectiveness.<sup>6,7</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>8</sup> and the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology both specifically recommend taking ivermectin with food.<sup>9</sup>

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