

Cutaneous Larva Migrans Detected by Epiluminescent Microscopy

Sir,

The cutaneous larva migrans (CLM), also known as creeping eruption, is a common infectious disease, especially found in tourists travelling to tropical and subtropical countries. In this reported case of an extensive CLM infection we could find a larva by epiluminescent microscopy to confirm the diagnosis.

CASE REPORT

A 34-year-old man presented the following clinical picture after a 3-week holiday on the island Isla de Mujeres, Mexico: large areas of elevated, serpiginous and erythematous trails, which were translucent and filled with a serous liquid towards the end. These eruptions were accompanied by a wide-spread inflammatory skin reaction (Fig. 1). Laboratory investigations revealed an eosinophilia of 14.8%. All other parameters were normal. The cutaneous manifestations had been presented for 10 days, beginning with great



Fig. 1. A serpiginous tunnel-like lesion.

sensations of itching at the abdomen, the lateral sites of the thighs and the buttocks. In an affected skin lesion it was possible to detect a larva by epiluminescent microscopy (Fig. 2). Because of this extensive infection a treatment with a topical application of 15% thiabendazole for seven days under occlusive conditions in combination with an oral single dose of 12 mg ivermectin was provided. The pruritus and the progression of cutaneous tracks ended within three days. No recurrences of skin lesions were observed. Our patient experienced a complete resolution of lesions within 3 weeks and the treatment was well tolerated.

DISCUSSION

The diagnosis of CLM is based on the characteristic clinical history and symptoms. Histological evidence of the larva is



Fig. 2. A larva detected by epiluminescent microscopy ($\times 40$).

limited in the most cases, because the cutaneous manifestations normally appear several hours after larva's migration. The epiluminescent microscopy, however, is an effective and rapid non-invasive method for detecting a larva to confirm the diagnosis of CLM.

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