

LARVA MIGRANS (A case report)

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Summary

A case of larva migrans on the abdominal wall of a child of 68 days is reported. The penetration of the larva occurred immediately after birth. The disease manifested on the third day and persisted for 65 days. The lesion responded to ethyl chloride spray.

The term 'Larva-migrans' denotes the prolonged migration of the larval parasite in the skin or internal organs of man¹. According to Little² it was Lee in 1874 who used the term creeping eruption for the condition produced in the skin of humans by the migrating parasite but he was unable to find the parasite causing the condition. The works of Kirley-Smith et al in 1926³ established that the larva of non-human hookworms particularly *ankylostomia brasiliensis* was the main cause of creeping eruption.

Case report

A 68 days old female child was brought to the Dermatology O.P. on 14-8-76 with a tortuous, linear, narrow lesion on the abdominal wall of 65 days' duration. This was the 2nd child of a fisherwoman living in the sandy coastal area of Trivandrum. The child was born as a full term baby but it was a precipitate labour and the child fell on the sand in a prone position. On the 3rd day mother noticed a linear erythematous lesion about 2 cms in length just below the umbilicus. The lesion rapidly spread in a sinuous, tortuous, zigzag, bizarre pattern. Exami-

nation showed a linear pigmented track about 63 cms, in length. The advancing edge was erythematous with small vesicles over it. (Fig. Page No. 345).

Ethyl chloride spray was given a little ahead of the advancing end. This stopped spread of the lesion and the inflammation subsided. The pigmentation cleared slowly.

Discussion

Larva migrans is not unusual and can occur at any age, but is most common in children. Sites commonly affected are the feet, buttocks, genitals and hands. In the present case the lesion started on the 3rd day after birth and the site affected was the abdominal wall. Only time the child had direct contact with the sand was at birth and the penetration of the larva might have occurred then. Ethyl chloride spray was effective treatment in this case. This case is reported because of the unusual age and site of the lesion.

REFERENCES

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