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Cutaneous Larva Migrans in a Newborn of 3 Weeks

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Abstract

Also referred to as creeping dermatitis, Cutaneous Larva Migrans (CML) is a parasitic disease caused by hookworm larvae in a dead end in moist soil. More common in children, it is rare in adults and exceptional in infants. We report a case in a 3-week-old Newborn that was sent to us by the pediatric department of the National Hospital of Niamey. Contamination was made by contact with clothes soiled by moist soil containing larvae. The presence of stray cats in the house was confirmed by the mother. Local treatment with albendazole in preparation with a cream resulted in complete healing after 2 weeks.

Keywords: Cutaneous Larva Migrans, Newborn, Albendazole, Niger

INTRODUCTION

Cutaneous Larva Migrans (CML), also known as "migrant helminthiasis", "dermatitis serpiginosus", "creeping eruption", or "sand worm" is a zoodermatosis caused by cutaneous penetration of helminth larvae, usually parasites of the small intestines of cats and dogs [1]. It is first described in 1874 by Lee RJ [2], as a benign skin condition. More noticeable in tropical and subtropical countries, it is caused by the accidental migration of an animal nematode larva into the surface part of the skin. The most incriminated larvae are: *Ancylostoma caninum*, *Ancylostoma brasiliense* and *Uncinaria stenocephala* [3].

We report a case in a 3-week-old Newborn that was sent to us by the pediatric department of the National Hospital of Niamey. Local treatment with albendazole as a mixture in a cream, led to complete cure after 2 weeks.

OBSERVATION

This was a three-week-old newborn that we received in consultation with the Department of Dermatology at the National Hospital of Niamey, Niger (west Africa). The duration of the illness before the consultation was 7 days. Crying and agitation linked to pruritus was the reason for pediatric consultation. No treatment has been done locally and by the general route. Physical examination revealed numerous serpiginous erythematous lesions at the back

without excoriation, measuring several centimeters in length (**Figure 1**). At the interrogation, the mother of the baby revealed the presence of stray cats in the family environment. After the laundry, the newborn's clothes are spread out in the courtyard of the house on a rope where some of them fall to be in contact with the soil soiled with larvae. The general condition of the newborn was normal, without any other cutaneous affection. Base line hematological and biochemical investigations were within normal limits. According to epidemiological and clinic aspects, diagnosis of CLM was made. A local treatment combining albendazole mixed in a moisturizing cream was carried out. One week after initiation of treatment, inactivation of serpiginous erythematous furrows (**Figure 2**) was observed; two weeks later, the total disappearance of the furrows was seen (**Figure 3**). No local side effects were noted.

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Figure 1 Serpiginous erythematous furrows before treatment



Figure 2. Inactivation of furrows one week after treatment



Figure 3. Total recovery after two weeks of treatment

DISCUSSION

Rare in temperate countries, CML is reported mainly in tropical countries [4,5]. The reported cases mainly concern the 1 to 5 year age group [6]; adults appear to be more affected during travel due to the presence of cats roaming on beaches and hotels [7-9]. The peculiarity of this observation is the appearance of Cutaneous Larva Migrans in a newborn of three weeks; Classically, the serpiginous erythematous lesion is objective [5,7,8,10] and was present in this newborn. The location of the lesions is mainly in the areas most in contact with the damp and soiled soil and concerns the pelvic limbs [7, 11,12]; in this small patient, contamination of the back skin, was indirect through the drying clothes that fell on a moist soil containing larvae. Many molecules used orally alone or in combination have proved to be effective, the main ones being: albendazole, thiabendazole, mebendazole, and / or ivermectin [13]. The local treatment performed with thiabendazol [14] on another occasion also responds well with albendazol, with which our patient was cured in 2 weeks without side effects such as allergic contact dermatitis, pruritus and irritation [15].

CONCLUSION

The cutaneous larva migrans is classically favored by moisture and domestic host animals mainly cat and dog.

Neonatal infestations are exceptional and would be favored by wearing clothes soiled by wet soil containing larvae. Local treatment based on albendazole in a cream is always effective.

STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient's father for publication of this article and any accompanying images.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared

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