Unusual Presentation of Penile Filariasis

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ABSTRACT

Filariasis is a common disease of the tropics. Penoscrotal filariasis is a common presentation within various parts of India.

Keywords: Elephantiasis, Lymphangitis, Lymphorrhagia, Microfilariae, Penile filariasis.


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INTRODUCTION

Filariasis is a disease affecting the lymphatics occurring in the tropics by the worm Wuchereria bancrofti and other species. Infectious stage is the microfilariae. Parasite completes sexual stage of life cycle in a vector commonly mosquito.

CASE REPORT

A 65 years old male patient came to our outpatient department (OPD) with complain of swelling in the genital region since past 2 years. He also had a history of on and off fever with chills for past 1 year for which he got treated by local practitioner. On examination, scrotum was nontender and thickened (Fig. 1), multiple beaded lesions were noted on the penis from the base up to the external urinary meatus in a row on the ventral surface (Fig. 2), no discharge was present from lesions present on scrotum. On palpation, temperature of skin was normal, testis were palpable, nontender to touch, it was possible to get above swelling. The patient was advised surgery which he refused. He was treated medically by giving diethylcarbamazine 100 mg thrice daily to treat any active infection for 3 weeks and subsequent follow-up.

DISCUSSION

Commonly, filariasis has four stages: filarial fever, lymphangitis, lymph stagnation and finally elephantiasis.

Lymph scrotum is a term applied to dilation and tortuosity of cutaneous lymphatics of the scrotum wherein excessive rugosity and vesicles containing clear or slightly turbid fluid appear in the skin whose rupture may lead to lymphorrhagia. Lab diagnosis of microfilariae is based on microscopic examination of blood films. Lymphatic obstruction in filariasis leads to dilatation of terminal lymphatics but this presentation is quite rare in penis, as Ram’s Horn with distortion of shape and size of penis commonly occurs, so this case is presented for its rarity.

REFERENCES