



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

A CASE OF MUCOSAL LEISHMANIASIS: MIMICKING AN INTRANASAL TUMOR

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Leishmaniasis is a chronic non-communicable disease, caused by different types of Protozoan parasites belonging to genus *Leishmania*, found in many countries. This polymorphic disorder has been associated to many types of lesions, including ulcers, nodules, infiltrated and verrucous plates. Global estimates of prevalence are of about 12 million cases, with 1 to 1.5 million new cases being reported each year. The transmission occurs through the bite from infected *Phlebotomus* spp. (Old World) and *Lutzomyia* spp. (New World) flies. In humans, Leishmaniasis occurs in three different forms: cutaneous, mucosal and visceral. Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) is especially frequent in Mediterranean countries, such as Turkey; approximately 90% of Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) cases are reported in the Indian subcontinent and in Sudan; Mucosal Leishmaniasis (ML) is the most common form seen in Latin America. We report an interesting case of ML in a 51-year-old man, with the production of secretion and the obstruction of airways, mimicking a neoplastic process. The lesion had been removed four months earlier by an Otorhinolaryngologist, but the injury reappeared. Dermatological examination revealed the presence of a friable, erythematous nodule in the nasal septum, and of erythema in the left nasal cavity. Anatomopathology of the lesion removed four months before showed round structures scattered among histiocytic aggregates, suggesting a Protozoan morphology; immunohistochemistry was compatible with Leishmaniasis. The patient was treated with 20 mg/Kg/day of Pentavalent Antimonial for 30 days, associated with 400 mg of Pentoxifylline every 8h, with complete lesion remission. ML shows heterogeneous presentations and is frequently underestimated by many physicians, especially outside of South America. It should be considered a differential diagnosis for nasal masses, and treated accordingly.

