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

# GNATHOSTOMIASIS ACQUIRED AFTER CONSUMPTION OF RAW FRESHWATER FISH IN THE AMAZON REGION: REPORT OF TWO CASES IN BRAZIL

*I.f. Oliveira [1] - M.e.a. Marques [1] - V. Haddad Junior [1]*

*Medical School Of São Paulo State University, Dermatology, Botucatu, Brazil [1]*

Background: Gnathostomiasis is a parasitic zoonosis caused by the helminth Gnathostoma spp., acquired by the consumption of raw or undercooked contaminated aquatic animals. The disease is endemic in Southeast Asia, Central and South America. Humans are occasional hosts due to the ingestion of the larvae which crosses digestive tract and can go into subcutaneous tissue or other solid organs and more rarely into central nervous system, causing the most severe forms of the disease. Cutaneous gnathostomiasis occurs three to four weeks after larvae ingestion and a migratory skin lesion ranging from a nodule to an infiltrated ill-defined mass appears. Peripheral eosinophilia and a dense eosinophilic infiltrate of the dermis and subcutaneous are suggestive of the disease, but the definitive diagnosis is made by identifying the parasite. The treatment with albendazole or ivermectin is effective, but some patients may experience recurrence even after therapy.

Observation: Two male patients, both middle-aged, presented an unique itchy, painful, erythemato-edematous and infiltrated plaque on anterior thorax and left flank. Both had consumed freshwater fish in Rivers of the Amazon region. The clinical and epidemiological diagnosis of gnathostomiasis was made, a biopsy was performed and treatment with ivermectin caused total regression of the lesions. The biopsy showed eosinophilic infiltrate compatible with the diagnosis, but the agent could not be visualized.

Key message: Although the reports of the disease is still rare, there is a growing number of autochthonous cases in non-endemic countries, suggesting that the distribution of parasite may be broader than expected. Because of this, dermatologists should be familiar with the disease to provide correct diagnosis and treatment. The control strategy should be based on health education for the population.