



Orbital filariasis in a Nigerian Community



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Abstract

Filariasis is a worldwide zoonotic infection. Recent reports concerning the orbit have come from several countries. Therefore, a Nigerian report is deemed to be worthy of documentation.

Keywords: Orbit; Filariasis; Worldwide; Nigeria

Introduction

Ocular filariasis is an interesting infestation. Recent reports appeared in alphabetical order in Bangladesh [1], India [2-4],

Iran [5] and USA [6]. Therefore, a Nigerian report is deemed to be worthy of documentation especially in tabular form.

Result

(Table 1).

Table 1: Epidemiological data on orbital filariasis.

No	Initials	Age	Sex	Side	Site	Size	Diagnosis
1	UP	29	F	L	Conjunctiva	Fragment	Melanoma
2	KI	35	M	R	Conjunctiva	0.5 cm piece	Granuloma
3	OL	40	M	L	Conjunctiva	Tiny frags	Melanoma
4	AL	66	M	L	Conjunctiva	Tiny piece	Neoplasm
5	KO	25	M	L	Eyelid	1.2 cm	Onchocerciasis

Discussion

Most reports are of single cases [1-5]. Here, as many as 5 cases are being considered. Only one of them was rightly diagnosed, i.e., onchocerciasis. Some data stand out. Thus, males preponderated as did the left side. The 25 to 66 range in years (means 39 years) compares with the literature range of 11 to 40 years (means 28 years). One local case was situated in the eyelid. This was true of the report from Bangladesh [1]. As might be expected, the biopsy specimen was substantial. In contrast, concerning the conjunctiva, tiny materials alone were submitted for analysis which were enough to reveal the filarial worms.

Of course, the local examples differ from the USA picture [6]. In this context, in that country, the scenery was painted as follows: "Several factors acting in concert now place US residents, returning travelers, and expatriates at risks of contracting ocular filariasis including increasing seroprevalence rates of zoonotic filariasis."

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