Correspondence

Subcutaneous filariasis in India—Possible indication of human *Dirofilaria*

Madam,

I read with great interest the article by Naik *et al*¹, concerning diagnosis of filariasis. The adult female patient was afebrile with no lymphadenopathy or organomegaly. The authors could not diagnose properly the species of the filarial worm.

In recent years, numerous cases of human *Dirofilaria* have been reported, indicating fast emergence of this zoonotic disease². Of the eight human filarial nematodes, only two species *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi* are found in India. These worms occupy the lymphatic system. Other species namely, *Loa loa*, *Onchocerca volvulus* and three species of *Mansonella* occupy the subcutaneous layer¹; which are not found in India. The case report presented indicates possible diagnosis of human *Dirofilaria*. This nematode infection has been reported from Maharashtra, where the present case is reported. It is important to diagnose such subcutaneous cases of human filarial nematodes properly, when elimination of lymphatic filariasis is underway in India.

REFERENCES


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Author’s Reply

I thank Dr Ghosh for his generous comment and agree with his views. Unfortunately, we couldn’t perform the species identification of the microfilaria, because of paucity of samples for microbiological evaluation and diagnostic tools.

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