

Oral Medicine

MYIASIS –A Case Report

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Joji George , B.D.S. is a dental surgeon of confident dental clinic, Rajah hospital annexe , Muthuvattoor & dental care, dental clinic, Kottappady. He is the editor of IDA Kunnamkulam branch (2008-09) The word "Myia" means fly in Greek. So the infestation of any part of the body with flies, larvae or maggots may be called myiasis. Even though myiasis is a very common disease in veterinary medicine, it seems to be not very common in medical literature. But due to the poor socio – economic status or medically compromised conditions, its occurrence is not very uncommon. The larvae of flies may be ingested through contaminated food or by the deposition of egg by female on open wounds or decaying tissues. The larvae hatch in the tissues and then come out of the tissue attempting to reach the soil for pupating.



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CASE REPORT

A 75 year old female patient reported to the department of general medicine in Rajah Chartable Hospital, Muthuvattoor, Chavakkad. With a complaint of oral bleeding. She gave a history of ulcers in her mouth 7 days (a week) back. She also under went endoscopy from Medical College Hospital & Computed tomography scan from West Fort Hospital, Thrissur. For the past few days lips & cheeks had

become swollen and she started becoming restless. The physician referred the case to the dental surgeon for the expert opinion & management.

On extra oral examination of middle third of the face, facial swelling and periorbital oedema were found. Palpebral fissures were narrowed.

On intra oral examination many maggots were found creeping in relation to 1) detached mucosa of anterior palate of left side 2) Detached mucosa of the floor of the mouth 3) Mucobuccal folds in relation to lower anterior teeth, Upper posterior teeth & Upper right cheek and 4) The surrounding area became erythematous and edematous.

X – Rays (IOPA, Occlusal, AP & Lateral views) were taken to rule out the involvement of any bone. It revealed generalized horizontal bone loss suggestive of chronic periodontitis.

Combining all these clinical findings, Diagnosis of Myiasis was made.



Collected Maggots



Extraction of Maggots

TREATMENT

Oral Ulcers were flushed with diluted Hydrogen Peroxide, Povidone – Iodine mouth gargles and normal saline. Even though treatment of choice is Turpentine oil irrigating, due to the chances of aspiration (use of Ryle's tube) it was not carried out. The first day, 200 maggots were picked up by tweezers. On the second day, about 100 maggots were removed. On the third day, only 2 maggots were removed. Swelling of middle third of the face and periorbital oedema was subsided and palpebral fissures turned out normal.

During the treatment, patient was put on Ryle's tube for feeding and antibiotics & analgesics for infections & inflammation. The wound was left open to heal by secondary intention. Patient was recalled to review the case.

ANALYSIS

In this case, the eggs of the flies would have been deposited directly by the flies due to the poor oral hygiene at the time of the ulceration of mouth, improper fly control of premises, the humid nature of the wound or unprotected and open mouth ulcers would have attracted female flies to lay eggs on it. Perhaps, the eggs of flies would have been lodged in the ulcer by the ingestion of contaminated food materials which would have contained the eggs of flies. Hematological test reports were within normal limits except for ESR, which was raised to 46 due to severe infection.

Histopathological examination ruled out the presence of carcinoma of tissues.

Entomological analysis of the larvae revealed that it belonged to the phylum Arthropoda, class insecta and the order Diptera.

ENTOMOLOGY

The larvae of Diptera are commonly called 'screw worms' due to its morphology. The members of the order 'Diptera' are characterized by a pair of wings attached to the mesothorax. The hind pair of wings is reduced to appendages called halteres or balancers. The mouth parts are adapted for piercing & sucking.

After the female flies have laid eggs, the hatching takes place within 8-10 hours and the larvae enters to tissues within 4-8 days. When the maturation takes place, inflammation occurs. They leave the body in 6 -14 days.

CONCLUSION

After the treatment of Myiasis with Turpentine oil, Betadine, Hydrogen peroxides, mouth gargles etc, the larvae must be removed, may be incubated to know the genus and species.

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