

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

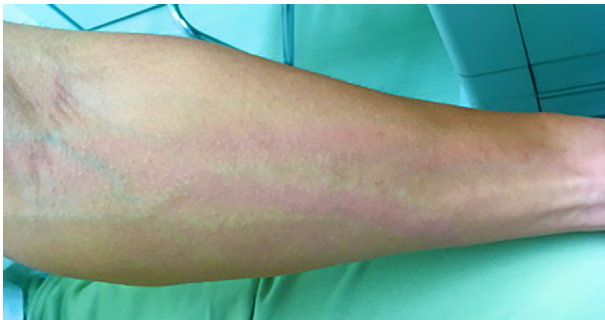
Acute Lymphangitis after a Land Leech Bite

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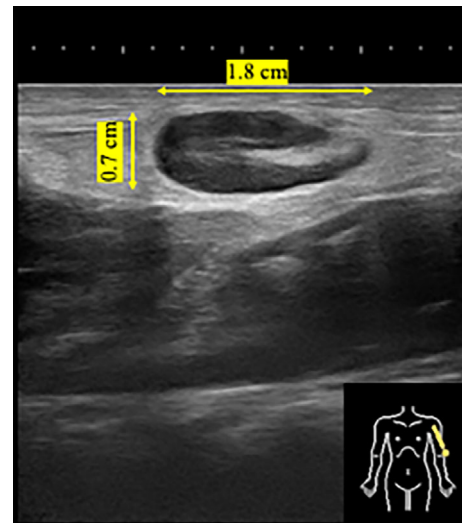
Key words: leech bite, lymphangitis

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Picture 1.



Picture 2.

A 19-year-old man presented with pain of the left arm, and a fever developed after training as a ranger in a mountainous area. He reported land leech bites with slight bleeding on his extremities during training, and symptoms developed two days after the bites occurred. His body temperature was 37.6°C, and an examination revealed two red streaks on his left palmar forearm (Picture 1), no eschar or skin abrasions on the distal part, and swelling of the supra-trochlear lymph nodes (Picture 2). We diagnosed him with lymphangitis induced by a leech bite. His condition improved following five days' treatment with amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (AMPC/CVA). Infectious lymphangitis usually develops as a complication of skin wound or distal infection. There have been several reports of leech bite infections induced by symbionts of leeches, including *Aeromonas* spp. (1) and *Rickettsia* spp. (2). We administered AMPC/CVA by referencing protocols for insect bites, but careful follow-up is important in order to select appropriate agents, as some symbionts of leeches are resistant to AMPC/CVA.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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