

Methylprednisolone

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Strongyloidiasis following off-label treatment: case report

A 53-year-old man developed strongyloidiasis following off-label treatment with methylprednisolone for COVID-19 infection.

The man, who had fever and diarrhoea for 4 days and abdominal discomfort following meals for one-and-a-half month, presented to the hospital. Two months prior to presentation, he was admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19 infection. He had received off-label treatment with IV methylprednisolone 60mg twice a day for 5 days for COVID-19 infection. After 2 weeks, he was discharged in stable condition with negative test result for COVID-19 infection by SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR test. Upon admission, he underwent upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy which showed hiatus hernia with duodenal ulcer. Subsequent blood examination showed normocytic normochromic anaemia and neutrophilic leukocytosis. Blood cultures were sterile. His faecal occult blood test was positive. Subsequent HRCT chest showed moderate pleural effusion, interlobular septal thickening with linear fibrotic bands in bilateral lung parenchyma. His repeat RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 test showed a negative result. Stool microscopic examination showed rhabditiform larvae of *Strongyloides stercoralis*, which were 280-300µm long with short buccal cavity, prominent genital precordium and pointed tail. Koga agar culture plate showed actively motile filariform larvae and adult female worms of *Strongyloides stercoralis*. Based on investigations, he was diagnosed with Strongyloidiasis with hiatus hernia and duodenal ulcer.

The man started receiving treatment with amoxicillin, clarithromycin, pantoprazole, albendazole and ivermectin. After 2 weeks of treatment, his microscopic examination of stool and inoculation on Koga agar plate didn't show any parasitic forms of *Strongyloidiasis stercoralis*. It was concluded that, he had developed strongyloidiasis due to immunosuppression effect of methylprednisolone.

Gautam D, et al. Corticosteroids in Covid-19 pandemic have the potential to unearth hidden burden of strongyloidiasis. IDCases 25: 2021. Available from: URL: <http://www.elsevier.com/journals/idcases/2214-2509>

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