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ePoster Viewing

International health, tropical and travel-associated diseases, and parasitology

Dicrocoeliasis with signs of chronic diarrhoea in a child

Z.G. Sonmez Tamer¹, S. Oncel¹

¹Kocaeli University - Medical Faculty, Department of Medical Microbiology, Kocaeli, Turkey

Objectives: Infection with *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* (*D. dendriticum*) in children is rarely reported in the medical literature. *D. dendriticum* is the causative agent of a rare food-borne zoonosis of the human biliary tract, dicrocoeliasis, for which few human prevalence data are available. Infection occurs through the ingestion of ants containing metacercariae, whereas pseudo-infections (presence of *D. dendriticum* eggs in stool in the absence of adult worms) are due to the consumption of infected animal liver. We report a rare case of dicrocoeliasis in a child. This case is important because it attracts attention to parasitic diseases such as dicrocoeliosis, which are non-endemic and cannot be easily diagnosed clinically.

Case report: A eight-year-old Turkish girl reported having had chronic-relapsing diarrhea, right upper abdominal pain and weight-loss for about five months. The physical examination was unremarkable except for an abdominal tenderness to palpation in the right upper quadrant. The serum level of bilirubin was slightly raised to 1.12 mg/dl (<1.10 mg/dl) and the level of IgE was raised to 215 U/ml (<100 U/ml). Serologic tests for celiac disease were negative. All other laboratory findings were within normal limits. Stool examinations showed eggs of *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*. The abdominal ultrasound was unremarkable except for mild steatosis. The patient denied consumption of liver or liver-products within the past weeks. Spurious infection due to eating infected liver could thus be excluded. Then stool examination (three times) revealed dicrocoelium ova. The patient was treated for dicrocoeliasis with praziquantel (3 × 25 mg/kg/day for three days). Further stool examinations for parasites were negative and diarrhea was disappeared. Five weeks after the patient was almost free of symptoms and stool examinations for parasites remained negative.

Conclusion: Dicrocoeliasis can be associated with chronic diarrhea and right upper abdominal pain. Stool examinations for parasites are very important in patients with gastrointestinal symptoms.