Case 1

Dr Nick BEECHING
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
28 year old British soldier with lesion on leg for 3 months, starting in Belize

Lesion itching
Mild pain
No response to flucloxacillin
No other symptoms
General examination normal
Where is Belize? (choose one)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Where is Belize? (choose one)

1. Mexico
2. Belize
3. Guyana
4. Peru
5. Brazil
What is the most likely diagnosis?

Choose one

1. infected insect bite
2. cutaneous myiasis
3. cutaneous leishmaniasis
4. *Dracunculus medinensis*
5. cutaneous larva migrans
What is the most likely diagnosis?

1. infected insect bite
2. cutaneous myiasis
3. cutaneous leishmaniasis
4. Dracunculus medinensis
5. cutaneous larva migrans
What is the most likely type of myiasis? Choose one

1. Cordylobia anthropophaga
2. Cochliomyia hominivorax
3. Dermatobia hominis
4. Wohlfartia magnifica
5. Musca domestica
What is the most likely type of myiasis?

1. Cordylobia anthropophaga
2. Cochliomyia hominivorax
3. Dermatobia hominis
4. Wohlfartia magnifica
5. Musca domestica
Tumbu fly

*Cordylobia anthropophaga*

Lays eggs on clothes etc

Africa
Tumbu (or putzi or mango) fly
Cordylobia anthropophaga
Tumbu fly
How would you treat him?

1. squeeze it out
2. suffocate with petroleum jelly
3. dig it out with a needle
4. suck it out with vacuum pump
5. minor surgery
How would you treat him?

1. squeeze it out
2. suffocate with petroleum jelly
3. dig it out with a needle
4. suck it out with vacuum pump
5. minor surgery
Surgery was required
Dermatobia hominis

“Human botfly”
Central & S America

Transferred by mosquitoes when biting
May be removed after occlusion, but often need surgery

"Botfly"
*Dermatobia hominis*
Central & S America
Cochliomyia hominivorax  
Venezuela
Myiasis

- Tumbu fly Africa
- Botfly S & C America
- Screw-worms  S America etc
- Facultative (various) – wounds everywhere
Learning points

• Skin lesions resembling boils from tropics may be cutaneous myiasis
• African myiasis (“Tumbu fly”) is usually easy to remove after suffocation
• Central and South American “botfly” can remain for longer and may require surgery
• Do not dig around inside lesions
• Ivermectin may be useful
References