

## Case Report

# A case report of a patient with 15 acute local wet wounds in the legs and its treatment process

Mahmoud Bahmani<sup>1</sup>, Razi Naserifar<sup>2</sup>, Morteza Shamsi<sup>2</sup>,  
Amin Karimi<sup>3</sup>, Ali Jalilian<sup>3</sup>, Shahriyar Rasouli<sup>3</sup>,  
Seyed Hossein Adineh<sup>3</sup> Mahmoud Rafieian-Kopaei<sup>4\*</sup> and Somayeh Shahsavari<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Razi Herbal Medicines Research Center,  
Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorramabad, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine,  
Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

<sup>4,2</sup>Medical Plants Research Center, Basic Health Sciences Institute,  
Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Shahrekord, Iran

Corresponding author: Prof. Mahmoud Rafieian-Kopaei;  
Medical Plants Research Center, Basic Health Sciences Institute,  
Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Shahrekord, Iran; Email: [rafieian@yahoo.com](mailto:rafieian@yahoo.com)

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a prevalent disease in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. It is transmitted by the parasite *Leishmania* through sand fly bites psychodidae families, flutamida subfamilies from human to human and animals. Cutaneous wounds usually occur with a small number of lesions but sometimes the number of lesions is very high requiring immediate and systemic treatment.

**Case Report:** A 37-year-old woman nomadic tribes of Kermanshah in January 2015 with the development of 15 ulcers referred to the urban health centers in Dehloran city, Iran. Other family members were not sick and had no skin lesions. The patient had not any underlying disease. After referring the patient to a health center in the city of Dehloran, the wounds were examined. Smears were prepared from the wounds of patient and histological studies were conducted using Giemsa. By microscopic examination of the samples in the laboratory, promastigote leishmania was observed on the Lam smear.

**Conclusion:** In the leishmaniasis disease, incidence of cutaneous wound is a symptom and the number of lesions depends on the frequency of bites, but a large number of serious injuries require serious and systemic treatment.

**Keywords:** Wound wet, Dehloran, Female, Iran

## INTRODUCTION

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease common in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. It is transmitted to human and animals by *Leishmania*, sand fly, psychodidae families, flutamida subfamilies (1). Leishmaniasis is a zoonotic parasitic disease in 66 African and Asian countries and native to 22 countries in America and Europe (2,3).

Cutaneous leishmaniasis occurs in both rural and urban forms. In urban form *Leishmania tropica* is the pathogen while in rural form *Leishmania major* is the causative agent. The reservoir of disease in urban form is primarily humans but the dog is accidentally infected and if the reservoir of disease in rural is largely rodents, the most important of them is

Rhombomys opimus rats (4,5). Statistics show that the incidence of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Iran is thirty people per hundred thousand people. This disease has particular importance due to the high prevalence of the disease and its distribution in different parts of Iran, especially where the disease is endemic (6, 7). More cases are in Algeria, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Peru and Brazil, Iran and Afghanistan. The outbreak in the world is approximately twelve million people, of which its prevalence is one and a half million people per year (8-11). Provinces such as Khorasan, Yazd, Bushehr, Fars, Khuzestan, and Ilam have the highest incidence of the disease in Iran (12). Cutaneous Leishmaniasis type is a major health problem in Iran which every year in addition to skin lesions in patients results in a waste of human energy, medical and health, together with the loss of a large financial costs (13,14). However the disease imposes economic burden on families, communities and countries, particularly developing countries (15). Leishmaniasis skin ulcers may take several months to recover or even with a successful treatment scars may remain fixed in place (16).

### Case study

A 37-year-old female patient was nomadic tribes of Kermanshah. The patient had travel history between rural areas in the provinces of Kermanshah and Ilam. In January 2015, 15 the patient with the incidence of wound referred to the urban health center in Dehloran city (fig 1). Other family members were not sick and had no skin lesions. The person had not any underlying disease. After referring the patient to a health center in the Dehloran city, the wounds were examined. Individuals' lesions were local and 15 topical wounds could be observed on two feet (Figure 1 and 2). Smears were prepared from individual lesions and histological study was conducted using Giemsa stains. By microscopic examination of samples in the laboratory, leishmanial promastigote was viewed on the slides. To start treatment the patient was referred to the treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Dehloran city. The doctor prescribed glucantime injection to be injected to the multiple lesions and the top five in the legs. Glucantime was

administered for seven days, after the end of the treatment process the lesions were improved.

**Figure 1.** Cutaneous lesion in the patient's leg



**Figure 2.** Cutaneous lesion in the patient's leg at the same person



### DISCUSSION

In cutaneous leishmaniasis disease, the incidence of one or two lesions is common and the number of lesions depends on the number of bites (17). In the present study, a patient with 15 cutaneous lesions was observed. The results of studies conducted in different parts of Iran show that the dominant of cases has one or two lesion. For example, in Damghan 47.4% of patients had active lesion (18). The results of epidemiological studies in relation to the number of lesions of cutaneous leishmaniasis showed that 46% of patients had only one lesion (19). The results of epidemiological studies in Kolaleh and Bam demonstrated that respectively 44% and 82.3% of people in these areas had active lesions (20,21). The leishmaniasis disease the prevalence of a large number of lesions is

unusual and rare and serious and systemic treatment is required. The most risk factors of leishmaniasis include lack of sanitation, poverty, urbanization and malnutrition, deforestation. Prevention is more important than treatment. It can partly be prevented by using nets while sleeping. Treating the nets with insecticide is very effective. Using fine mesh sizes less than 0.6mm provides good protection against sandflies, however, a mosquito net with more than 1.2mm mesh may provide a limited protection against the sandfly bites (22). Although the finer mesh sizes would increase the protection, but have higher cost and reduced air circulation. It may cause overheating. It should be noted that most of Phlebotomine sandfly attacks usually occur at sunset in the rural areas rather than at night. Therefore, it is useful to put the nets over windows and doors. Using insect repellents, spraying animal shelters and houses with insecticides are also useful for protection. (22)

The recovered patients from cutaneous leishmaniasis are usually protected against the future infections. Hence, sometimes infecting with a bite might be useful. Traditional societies sometimes got intentionally and voluntarily sandflies bite to prevent multiple wounds on their faces. In the middle east areas, people used to transfer fluid from one lesion on infected patients to non-infected subjects using thorns (23). Nowadays, a vaccine made with antigens from *L. infantum*, is used in Europe.

## REFERENCES

1. Markle WH, Makhoul K. Cutaneous leishmaniasis: Recognition and treatment. *Am Fam Physician* 2004; 69(6): 1455-60.
2. World Health Organization. WHO Tech Rep Ser No. 701. 1984. Expert committee: The leishmaniasis: 2-4.
3. World Health Organization. WHO Tech Rep Ser No. 793. 1990. Expert committee: Epidemiological aspects. Control of the leishmaniasis: 41-46.
4. Ashford RW. Leishmaniasis reservoirs and their significance in control. *Clin Dermatol* 1996; 14(5): 523-532.
5. Desjeux P. Leishmaniasis. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2004; 2(9): 692.
6. Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Health and Medical Education. [Instruction of leishmaniasis control] Persian. Tehran: Center for disease control; 1999: 68.
7. Nadim A. Leishmaniasis. In: Azizi F, Janghorbani M, Hatam H, editors. *Epidemiology and control of common disorders in Iran*. 2nd ed. Tehran: Endocrine and Metabolism Research Center; 2000: 524-534.
8. Baily M, Lockwood S D N J. Cutaneous Leishmaniasis. *Clinics in Dermatology* 2007; 25; 203-211.
9. Tashakori M, Katrin K, Al-Jawabreh A, Mauricio I, Schonian G, Farajnia S, et al. *Leishmania major*: genetic heterogeneity of Iranian isolates by single-strand conformation polymorphism and sequence analysis of ribosomal DNA internal transcribed spacer. *Acta Tropica* 2006; 98:52-8.
10. Purmohammadi B, Motazedian MH, Kalantari M. Rodent infection with leishmania in a new focus of human cutaneous leishmaniasis in northern Iran. *Ann Trop Med Parasitol* 2008;102(2): 127-33.
11. Javaheri A. [Isolation of leishmanial major by isoenzyme electrophoresis method in Mashhad]. Faculty of Medicine. MSc Thesis, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences 2001: 1-40.
12. Tabatabaei S, Zahraei M, Ahmadnia H, Ghotbi M, Rahimi F. Principles of disease prevention and surveillance. 2nd ed. Tehran: Roohe Ghalam Publishers; 2007.
13. Valizadeh M. [A study on leishmanial species causing cutaneous leishmaniasis in Mashhad using specific monoclonal antibodies]. MSc Thesis. Tarbiat Modares University. 2003; 89-91.
14. Nadim A, Rezaei HR. [Epidemiology of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Iran. In: Azizi F. *Epidemiology of prevalent diseases in Iran*]. Chap. 4, 2nd ed. Iran; SBMU Publ 1994.

15. Clem A. A current perspective on leishmaniasis. *J global Infect Dis* 2010; 2(2):124.
16. Nadim A, Javadian A, Mohebbali M, Zamen Moemeni A. *The Leishmania Parasite and Leishmaniosis*. 3rd ed. Tehran: Tehran University Publishment Center; 2008. p. 177-208.
17. Mohammadi-Azani S. *The Assessment of Vectors and Reservoirs of Cutaneous Leishmanianisis in Damghan City Focus , Semnan Province*. Thesis for Getting MS Degree of Health Sciences in Medical Entomology and Vector Controlling. Faculty of Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences 2008.
18. Momeni AZ, Aminjavaheri M. Clinical Picture of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Isfahan Iran *Int. J Dermatol* 1994;33:260-265.
19. Sharifi I, Fekri M, Aflatonian MR, et al. Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Primary School Children in the South-Eastern Iranian City of Bam, 1994-95. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 1998;76:289-293.
20. Soufizade A. *A Study on Vectors and Reservoirs of Cutaneous Leishmanianisis Using Molecular Methods in Kalaleh City Focus in Order to Providing Preventive Programs*. Thesis for Master Degree of Health Sciences in Medical Entomology and Vector Controlling, Faculty of Health, Tehran: Tehran University of Medical Sciences; 2007. p. 99-100.
21. *Leishmaniasis Fact sheet N°375*". World Health Organization. January 2014. Retrieved 17 February 2017.
22. Palatnik-de-Sousa CB. Vaccines for leishmaniasis in the fore coming 25 years.. *Vaccine*. 2008; 26 (14): 1709–24.
23. Dunning, N. *Leishmania vaccines: from leishmanization to the era of DNA technology*. *Bioscience Horizons*. 2009; 2 (1): 73–82.