

Case Reports

PINWORM OF THE EYE TREATED WITH GARLIC JUICE

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ABSTRACT

This is the second report of conjunctival sac pinworm infection in the literature. The patient was treated with garlic juice, which was prepared as an eye drop. The first case reported from India was a 15 year old girl who had pinworm infection of her left eye. She had worm expulsion at night. Our case was a 13 year old girl who had worm infestation in both eyes, along with frequent pinworm discharge at night and occasionally during the day.

No single male worm was collected during infection. All collected pinworms were identical to *Enterobius vermicularis*, though a little smaller in size.

Our patient was from a crowded family, and probably acquired eye infection through infected fingers or towels. Infection was present for one year before treatment. During this period no reinfection had occurred but the conjunctiva were not able to cease infection spontaneously, as this usually occurs in intact mucosa of the human intestine during natural infection in two months.

Keywords: Pinworm (*Oxyuris*), Garlic (*Allium sativum*), Conjunctiva.

MJIRI, Vol. 9, No. 1, 65-67, 1995.

INTRODUCTION

Garlic (*Allium sativum*) juice as hydro-alcoholic extract was prepared in the form of an eye drop. No cytotoxic effects were observed on HeLLa cells with a 5% solution of this substance. The drug was used in two concentrations, 0.05% and 0.025%, and filtered twice through type Gs 0.22 µm filter paper.

These concentrations of eye drop were tested on rabbit conjunctiva and no signs of irritation were found.

CASE REPORT

Pinworm of the conjunctival sac was first reported in a 15 year old Indian female.^{1,2} Her lacrimal and nasal sinus washings did not show ova, and she had no eosinophilia. She was treated with piperazin citrate, prepared as an eye drop. Our case was a 13 year old female student who had the same situation except that she expelled pinworms from both conjunctival sacs (right and left). Similarly, washings of her lacrimal-nasal sinuses and microscopic examination did