TUMORAL FORM OF ASCARIASIS

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Ectopic forms of ascariasis with tumoral mass formations in the abdominal cavity are extremely rare. We can trace only two cases in the medical literature. Recently we have seen one such case associated with a past history of traumatic enteroperitoneal fistulae (air pistol accident) in a 7-year-old male Brazilian child with concomitant intestinal ascariasis. Clinically a pre-operative diagnosis of abdominal cancer was made. During exploratory laparotomy a large, firm tumoral mass simulating a benign peritoneal neoplasm (12 x 5 x 4 cm) was found in the peritoneal cavity, loosely attached to the bowel, but without involvement of its wall. Excision was simple with no intestinal damage. Recovery was without complications. The histological preparation showed a marked fibrous reaction around preserved and/or degenerated Ascaris eggs. Tissue eosinophilia was always present around the eggs which were frequently embryonated and contained 2,4 and 8 cell morulas. There were also areas of abscess formation and a granulomatous reaction with many foreign body giant cells. Serial sections of the excised mass did not reveal larvae and adult worms.

Although ascariasis is a very frequent infection in Brazil, this clinico-pathological form is very rare. We think that term tumoral form of ascariasis more adequate describes this peculiar clinico-pathological presentation which simulates an abdominal neoplasm.

REFERENCES