Abstract  A case of larva migrans or serpiginous linear dermatitis on the scalp of a teenager is reported. An ancylostomid larva was found within a sebaceous gland acinus. The unusual skin site for larva migrans as well as the penetration through the sebaceous gland are highlighted. The probable mechanism by which the parasite reached the skin adnexa is discussed.

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moderate spongiosis and elongation of rete ridges. The dermal blood capillaries had thick walls. There were peri-capillary infiltration of lymphocytes, macrophages and eosinophils. There is also slight diffuse interstitial edema. Nearly longitudinal sections of helminth larva were found in a sebaceous gland. Some parts of the larva were missing. The head and the entire esophagus could be seen. The following measures were taken: maximum width 20 micrometers, nerve ring from anterior end 75 micrometers, length of the esophagus 140 micrometers. Under oil immersion objective double lateral cuticular alae were noted. From the way the sections of the larva lies in the tissues, it is estimated that the larva is at least 550 micrometers long and is probably more than 600 micrometers. All of this features as well as the shape of the esophagus and the esophageal-intestinal junction are consistent with those of an infective larva of the genus *Ancylostoma*. The sections also showed within the same sebaceous gland a small part of a second apparently dead helminth larva. Lymphocytes, macrophages and eosinophils infiltrate around the sebaceous gland hair follicle. Sweat glands and hair muscles are unremarkable. Dilated blood capillaries, edema and eosinophils are found within the subcutaneous fat tissue.

**DISCUSSION**

Pathology showing cutaneous *Ancylostoma* larvae is consistent with *larva migrans*. In spite of a cavity found between the horny and the malpighian layers of the epidermis a winding skin tract was not clinically described. Such cavity is the microscope representative of the creeping eruption. Perhaps the eruption itself was hidden under the abundant local hairs. This report demonstrates an unusual site for *larva migrans* such as the scalp as well as highlights sebaceous glands as a probable way of skin penetration of larvae beyond hair follicle.

Experience with dogs have shown *A. brasiliense* larvae crossing the epidermal horny layer, migrating initially parallel to the skin surface and, later on, into the live layers of the epidermis and reaching the hair follicles through their external rootsheat. That study also showed dermal and subcutaneous penetration of larvae through either sebaceous or apocrine glands. According to Nikolaides et al., the genus *Ancylostoma* larvae are usually unable to reach beyond human epidermis, hair follicles or its glands. Those larvae present with hyaluronidase and collagenase.

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**Figure 1** - Hematoxylin and eosin stained paraffin section of scalp skin showing helminth larva within a sebaceous gland (GS). E = epidermis; D = dermis (x25,5).

**Figure 2** - Two helminth larvae (arrow and arrow-head) within scalp sebaceous gland (higher magnification of the Figure 1; 127,5).

**Figure 3** - Higher magnification of the helminth larva point with arrow-head in Figure 2. The esophageal shape and the esophageal-intestinal junction are consistent with those of an infective larva of *Ancylostoma* sp (x255).
activities. It likely that such activities are not adequate to open tracks through the human dermis. The invasiveness is limited to the several epithelial compartments of the human skin. A condensed fibrous layer enseathes the normal human hair follicle\(^1\). Therefore, for *Ancylostoma* larvae, sebaceous and apocrine glands are suspect to be easiest way out of human hair follicle into the deep skin. In addition, this way of larva migration might be favoured as sebaceous gland cells are full of soft lipids and tore open when mature?.

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REFERENCES