

PP108 THE ATTACK OF LITTLE DRAGON

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INTRODUCTION:

Dracunculiasis is a parasitic disease caused by the parasite worm *Dracunculus medinensis* commonly known as guinea worm (GW). *Dracunculus* is Latin term for “little dragon”. Although this disease uncommon, it has been persistent and can cause significant morbidity.

CASE REPORT:

A case of a 65 years old woman with underlying Sick Sinus Syndrome on pacemaker, Varicose vein and Atrial Fibrillation; presented with abdominal pain, diarrhea and vomiting for two days. She denied history of travelling and has been consuming treated water and also practiced good hygiene. Clinically she appeared pink, good hydration and vital sign were stable. On abdominal examinations, soft but generalized abdominal tenderness upon palpation with normal bowel sound. Her blood investigations were normal. Abdominal and chest x-rays noted scattered serpiginous and coiled calcification where reported by radiologist as Dracunculiasis by worm infestation likely subcutaneous tissues. Patient was treated with oral albendazole and analgesic. Subsequently, she was discharged with follow-up at nearest health clinic.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:

Since Global GW Eradication Program implemented in 1980 by WHO, Dracunculiasis has been very uncommon in Malaysia. Patient may present with unspecific symptoms. Thus imaging is a very useful modality to aid in diagnosis of Dracunculiasis. The presence of long linear, serpiginous or coil, whorl “chain mail” types of calcification in the soft tissues on radiological imaging supports the diagnosis of Dracunculiasis. In summary, although considered eliminated from most of countries, Dracunculiasis still exist in our local health setting. Physicians should be aware of this rare diagnosis. Early treatment should be initiate to prevent significant morbidity.