

## Images in Medicine

### Incidental cytodiagnosis of microfilaria from subcutaneous nodule

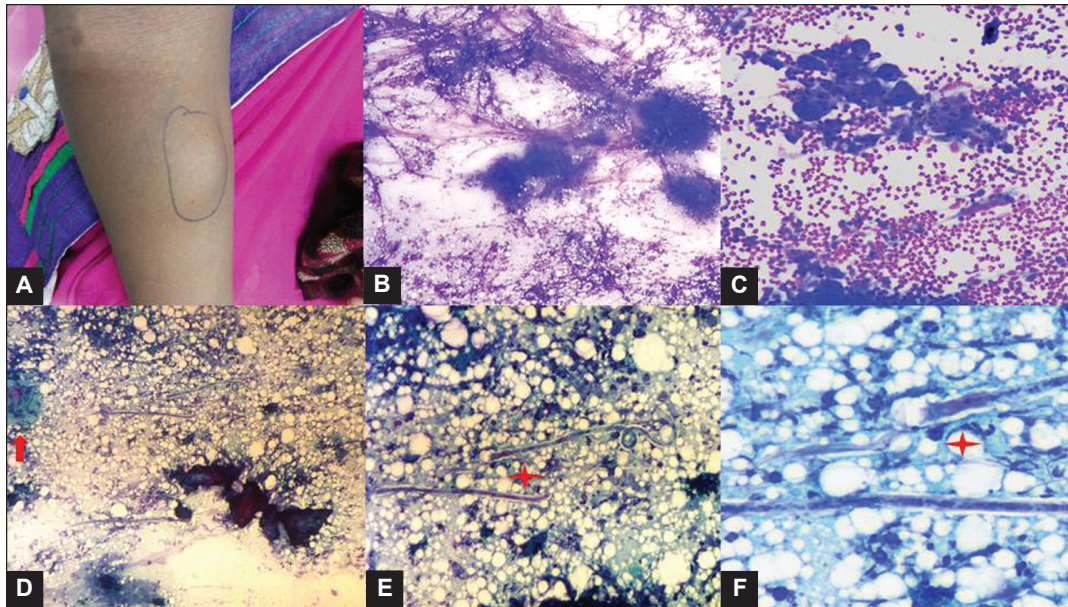


FIG 1A. Swelling in the right forearm of the patient

Figs 1B, C, D, E, F. Cytosmears showing microfilariae (star) in a granulomatous inflammatory (arrow) background comprised foreign body-type giant cells and histiocytes (Giemsa  $\times 400$ ; PAP,  $\times 400$ )

A 35-year-old woman presented with a swelling of the right forearm to the surgery outpatient department at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur. On examination, she had a subcutaneous swelling in the right forearm, painful and diffuse measuring  $3 \times 3$  cm for 6 months (Fig. 1A). A fine-needle aspiration was done and the material was sent for cytological examination with a clinical impression of fibro-lipoma. Blood mixed fluid was aspirated and routine Giemsa and Pap stains were done. Cytological examination revealed epithelioid granulomas with lymphocytes and microfilariae in a haemorrhagic background (Figs 1B, C, D). The microfilaria was sheathed and the column of nuclei in them with the tail tip being free (Figs 1E, F). A cytological diagnosis of granulomatous inflammation due to microfilaria morphologically consistent with *Wuchereria bancrofti* was made. She was treated with diethylcarbamazine (DEC) for 3 weeks. On follow-up, the swelling subsided.

Even in the absence of clinical indications and eosinophilia in peripheral smears, microfilaria can be detected in subcutaneous nodules. Hence, careful screening for microfilariae is important in aspiration cytology smears.

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