Cutaneous myiasis due to *Dermatobia hominis*: a case report from eastern Sudan.

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Cutaneous myiasis (CM) is invasion of human skin by larvae of dipterous flies\(^1\). CM is encountered world-wide and is endemic in several tropical countries, mainly in central and south American\(^2\). Cases have been reported in non-tropical countries such as USA, UK, Germany, and Japan \(^3,4,5\). Patients with CM due to *Dermatobia hominis* usually suffer from painful pruritic furuncular skin lesion with a serous or seropurulent discharge accompanied by a crawling sensation. The disease may resolve spontaneously, however conservative and/or surgical treatment may be indicated. Fatal CM due to *D. hominis* was reported from Brazil where a scalp lesion had disseminated into the brain\(^6\).

In Sudan, CM seems uncommon, unreported or probably underdiagnosed. In this communication we describe a case of CM due to *D. hominis* which seems to have been acquired from an indigenous source.

**Case Report:**
A nine–years-old Sudanese female, from Gedaref area, Eastern Sudan, complained of an unexplained discharging furuncular skin lesion on her right leg for two weeks. She sought medical advice several times and was given topical treatments and oral antibiotics. The patient was referred to Tropical Diseases Teaching Hospital (TDTH), Omdurman, because a larva dropped from the lesion while the patient’s mother was dressing it. The larva was identified as *D. hominis* at TDTH (The figure). The patient was reassured and no specific treatment was given.

![Dermatobia hominis larva (magnification x10)](image)

**Discussion:**
CM is more common among children in rural areas, and our case goes with this trend\(^7\). Myiasis can be transmitted from animal to man, and had been described in animals from different parts of the world including Sudan \(^8,9\). We have previously reported one human CM case from Taif region, western Saudi Arabia\(^1\). In the present case there was no history of travel abroad, and we suggest the source of infection to be domestic animals.

Early diagnosis of CM is important to save the patient undue anxiety and to avoid prescription of unjustified drugs. CM represents an association between man and ectoparasites\(^10\). It is relatively simple to manage a single incident of *D. hominis* infestation, however understanding of the biology and epidemiology of this organism is necessary for prevention of CM at community level.

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**References:**

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