Transepithelial Elimination in Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

Sir,

Transepithelial elimination, to our knowledge, has not been reported or illustrated previously in cutaneous leishmaniasis, although Leishmania amastigotes in the epidermis have been noted before (1) in up to 40% of biopsies with high parasitic loads but not in lesions with low parasitic indices (2). We would like to illustrate transepithelial elimination of Leishmania amastigotes in cutaneous leishmaniasis in a 30-year-old Egyptian man with an ulcerated and crusted lesion (10 x 10 mm) on the left elbow of 4 months’ duration. Leishmania amastigotes are seen in the dermis, in the epidermis in all layers and in a hair follicle (Fig. 1). Leishmania amastigotes can thus be added to the list of tissues, substances and organisms that are eliminated through epidermis and hair follicles. These include elastic fibres, collagen, erythrocytes, amyloid, calcium salts, bone, foreign material, inflammatory cells and debris, fungi and mucin (see 3 for ref).

REFERENCES


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Fig. 1. Cutaneous leishmaniasis showing Leishmania amastigotes in the dermis, around a hair follicle and in all epidermal layers. Note groups of amastigotes in malpighian layers, in the granular layer, among parakeratotic cells and in the keratin layer (H&E-Ax 120, Bx 120).