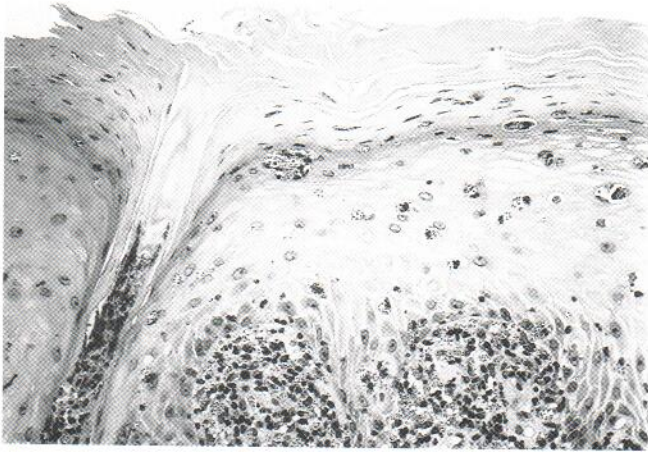


Transepithelial Elimination in Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

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 × 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).



a

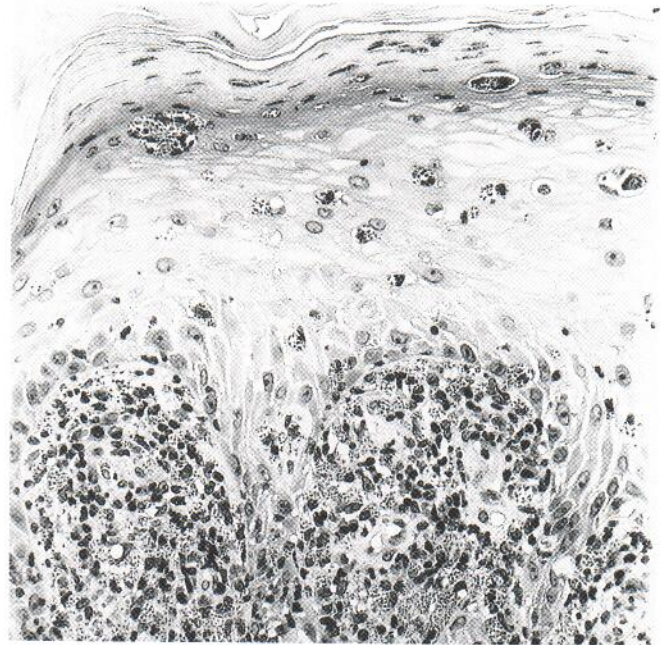
Fig. 1. Cutaneous leishmaniasis showing *Leishmania* amastigotes in the dermis, around a hair follicle and in all epidermal layers. Note groups of amastigotes in malpighian layers, in the granular layer, among parakeratotic cells and in the keratin layer (H & E-Ax 120, Bx 120).

REFERENCES

1. Nicolis GD, Tosca AD, Stratigos JD, Capetanakis JA. A clinical and histological study of cutaneous leishmaniasis. *Acta Derm Venereol (Stockh)* 1978; 58: 521–525.
2. Azadeh B, Samad A, Ardehali S. Histological spectrum of cutaneous leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania tropica*. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 1985; 79: 631–636.
3. Weedon D. *The skin*, Vol. 9 in *Symmers Systemic pathology*, 3rd edn. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1992: 26–29.

Accepted September 26, 1994.

Bahram Azadeh¹ and Fahad Abdulla², Departments of ¹Pathology and ²Dermatology, Hamad Medical Corporation, P.O. Box 3050, Doha, State of Qatar.



b