Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the article of Garcia-Lazaro et al recently published in the Journal regarding a case of leishmaniasis occurring within a tattoo of an HIV patient. They have added a new case of leishmaniasis on tattoos in HIV patients. As suggested by Lopez-Medrano et al, this reaction is mostly likely the consequence of macrophages infection by leishmania. Macrophages tend to gather in the tattooed dermis in order to assimilate the exogenous pigments. However, Lopez-Medrano et al stated recently that their case have been the second reported in the literature since 1997... Unfortunately, this is not true either. Indeed, in 2002, Bosch et al, from Malaga (Spain again!), reported a case series of HIV-infected patients with visceral leishmaniasis and specific cutaneous lesions. Among them, a 46-year-old male with a T lymphocyte count of 128 cells/mm³ presented a papular and nodular infiltration of his tattoo. Granuloma and leishmania were found in the skin biopsy. Infiltrative relapses coincided with systemic worsening and the lesions disappeared after appropriate anti-Leishmaniasis treatment. They even provide a black and white clinical picture of the infiltrated tattoo that reminds us of the case of Lopez-Medrano et al. Unfortunately, there is no way to find this article on PUBMED, if you are looking specifically for tattoo reactions. Anyhow, one thing is certain: Spain currently has, to the best of my knowledge, the largest series of cutaneous tattoo reactions related to leishmania in HIV patients...

References


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Leishmaniasis in Spanish tattoos

Leishmaniasis en los tatuajes Español

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