A CASE OF TRICHINOSIS; TRICHINELLA FOUND IN BLOOD TAKEN FROM AN ORDINARY EAR PUNCTURE

GROSVENOR CROSS, M.D.

MINNEAPOLIS

In April, 1909, Herrick and Janeway¹ reported the finding of trichinellæ in the blood taken from the arm veins of a patient suffering from trichinosis. At the first trial four embryos were found in 10 c.c. of blood; a subsequent specimen of 1.5 c.c. from the same patient showed two trichinellæ, which were found without protracted search. An excellent

Trichinella found in blood taken from an ordinary ear puncture.

photomicrograph is reproduced in their article. Attempts to find embryos in blood taken from the veins of three other individuals of the same family with clinical trichinosis were unsuccessful.

---

1. Herrick, W. W., and Janeway, T. C.: Demonstration of the *Trichinella Spiralis* in the Circulating Blood in Man, *THE ARCHIVES INT. MED.*, 1909, iii, 253.

In May, 1910, Mercur and Barach² reported the finding of two trichina embryos in 10 c.c. of blood taken from the median cephalic vein, following the method of Staübli.

Herrick and Janeway's cases occurred in March, 1909; Mercur and Barach's in January, 1910. In the article of Herrick and Janeway, the finding of trichina embryos in blood taken from the finger was suggested as a possible means of diagnosis, but, as far as I have been able to discover, no case has been reported in which such a procedure has resulted successfully. I therefore wish to present the following case, which was reported to the Minnesota Academy of Medicine in February, 1910:

The patient had been ill since August 17, 1909. On the 24th a diagnosis of trichinosis was made on the basis of edema of the face, together with a differential count, showing 9,100 white cells and 20 per cent. of eosinophils. On August 20 the white cells numbered 10,100, eosinophils 38. per cent. On August 27 the white cells numbered 11,200, with 44 per cent. eosinophils. On the 25th and 26th the stools were examined carefully for trichinae, but none were found. Excision of a piece of muscle for examination could not be done, and on the 25th it was determined to examine the blood for parasites and preparations were made to take a quantity of blood from a vein; it was not feasible, however, to get a needle into a vein, and, as an experiment, an ordinary puncture was made in the lobe of the ear and 1 c.c. of blood squeezed out by continued effort; this was laked with 12 c.c. of 3 per cent. acetic acid, centrifuged, and the sediment examined under low power. The trichinella reproduced with this report was easily found, and two others which were not quite so clearly marked. The photomicrograph was made by Dr. W. M. Chowning. Repeated examinations of the blood, on succeeding days, failed to show any further organisms.

It is worthy of note that the parasite reproduced herewith was found in this patient's blood on the eighth day after his first clinical symptom, and that no others were found later. Just as in Herrick and Janeway's cases, we were unable to discover parasites in the stools.

No attempt was made to obtain blood directly from a vein, and the fact that a comparatively small amount of blood, taken from a diagnostic puncture of the skin, showed these three trichinellæ, suggests that possibly it may be easier to obtain the parasites in the mixed arterial and venous blood than in the blood which has traversed the capillaries and is taken only from the veins.

Nicollet and Seventh Streets.

---

2. Mercur, W. H., and Barach, J.: A Case of Trichinosis, with Recovery of Parasite from the Blood and Muscle, *THE ARCHIVES INT. MED.*, 1910, v, 530.