



IMAGES IN OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Myiasis associated with nasal basal cell carcinoma

Miasis asociada a carcinoma basocelular nasal

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Myiasis is derived from the Greek word “myia” and refers to the invasion of tissues by dipteran larvae. It is an infrequent pathology, found mostly in less developed countries and warm climate regions. It is usually associated to deficient

hygiene conditions, ulcerative and suppurative injuries, alcoholism and senility. Flies lay their eggs, which enter the larval phase and penetrate and destroy tissues.

The diagnosis is determined by the presence of larvae; the treatment involves their removal and the use of either topical or oral antibiotic therapy. Although the prognosis is usually mild, this depends on subacute injuries and the



Figure 1 Advanced basal cell carcinoma.



Figure 2 Detail of a larva in the right nasal fossa.

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severity of the infection, because ocular, orbital, meningeal and brain damage can occasionally take place.

We present images of a homeless patient who arrived at an accident and emergency service after severe alcohol consumption and who presented a bleeding nasal injury. The clinical examination suggested an ulceronecrotic lesion, which affected practically all the nasal skin and had destroyed the soft tissues at the level of the nasal fossae, especially on the right side (Figure 1). The injury presented a fetid odour and a blood-mucus secretion, as well as the presence of a motile larva located in the right

nasal cavity (Figure 2). Similar larvae were found inside both nasal cavities. Lesion histopathology suggested a basal cell carcinoma and the microbiological study of the larvae corresponded to the *Cyclorhapha* subgroup. The patient did not accept any other complementary tests, follow-up or treatment for his nasal pathology.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.