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Anaphylactoid reaction to biting midges bite

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To the editor

Sir, biting midges is a common insect that can be seen in many beach areas in the tropical countries. Biting midges bite can cause health problem and this can be fatal. Here, the author reports a case of anaphylactoid reaction to biting midges bite. The patient was a 30 years' old male patient presenting with the problem of swelling right arm, palpitation and difficulty in respiration. This patient gave the history of biting midges bite at his right ring finger during having lunch at a restaurant at a beach. Within 5 minutes after getting bite, the patient felt serious pain and his hand and arm became swelling. His mother brought him to the physician and the patient started developing palpitation and respiratory difficulty during going to see the physician (about 10 min). The patient was diagnosed to have anaphylactoid reaction and the steroid therapy was given and the patient improved within 4 h. This is an interesting case of allergic reaction to biting midges bite. The saliva of biting midges contains several proteins which can cause the health problem[1]. Lehiy and Drolet noted for the understaning of roles of those proteins in "the possibly resulting disease pathogenesis[1]."

Chen *et al.* noted that " an immediate reaction to midge bites is immunoglobulin E-mediated. IFN-gamma, IL-6 and TNF-alpha are involved in delayed reactions to midge bites[2]." Of interesting, biting midges are abundant in many beaches in tropical zone and there is no systematic control of those problematic insects[3]. To diagnose the disease, specific immunoglobulin E antibodies can be useful[4]. However, since the diagnostic tool is usually not available and the history of biting midges bite can be sufficient for diagnosis, the diagnosis is usually confirmed by clinical history as in the present case.

Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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