Malaria Trophozoite

Stanley Kim, MD¹; Ricardo Saca, MD²

¹ Stanley Kim Clinic for Blood Disease and Cancer, Claremont, CA

² Board Certified Internal Medicine, Chino, CA

Stanley Kim, MD

Ricardo Saca, MD

A 71-year-old man living in El Salvador developed anemia, indirect bilirubinemia and intermittent fever for the past several months. Ultrasound of the abdomen revealed mild splenomegaly. Both thick and thin blood smears for malaria failed to show malaria species.

A peripheral blood smear of Giemsa stain was sent to my clinic for review. The slide showed RBCs with ring form trophozoite of malaria (Figure 1, 2). It is most likely plasmodium vivax as the size of ring is bigger than that of p. falciparum and p. vivax is the most common malaria species in El Salvador.¹

The patient was treated with anti-malaria medicine. The hemolytic anemia improved markedly and he is now symptom free.

AUTHOR DISCLOSURES:

No relevant financial affiliations or conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES:

1. IAMAT. El Salvador general health risks. Toronto, Canada. Accessed April 11, 2020. <https://www.iamat.org/country/el-salvador/risk/malaria>

CORRESPONDENCE:

Stanley Kim, MD

Hemaonco981@gmail.com

DOI: 10.38206/130104

FIGURE 1.

Slide showing RBCs with ring form trophozoite of malaria

FIGURE 2.

Slide showing RBCs with ring form trophozoite of malaria