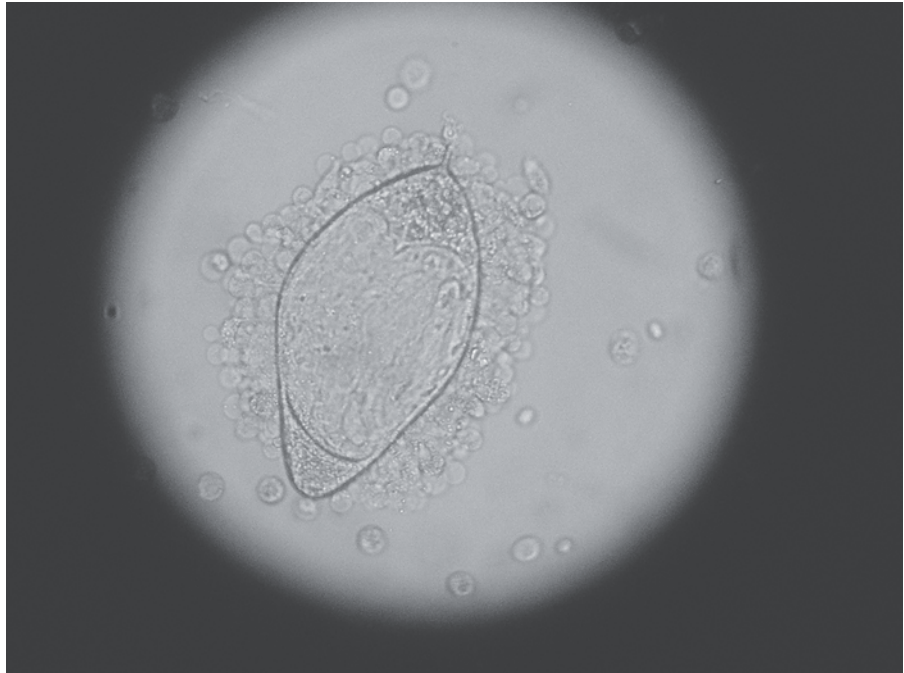


IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

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Video Photomicroscopy



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A 32-YEAR-OLD DOCTOR ATTENDING A TEACHING COURSE ON TROPICAL medicine in a rural hospital in Ethiopia reported severe itching of both legs at night that rendered him unable to sleep. He noted multiple skin lesions that appeared to be flea bites and was able to trap a flea. He then presented the flea in a lecture on practical skills in parasitology. A video of the flea was recorded by one of the students through the eyepiece of a microscope with the use of an inexpensive digital camera (Video 1). A similar method of obtaining images was used at our hospital in Spain. In this case, a 29-year-old Senegalese man had presented to his general practitioner with a 9-month history of migratory pruritic skin lesions. The results of laboratory tests revealed peripheral-blood eosinophilia (10.8%), microalbuminuria, and hematuria. Examination of the patient's urine revealed eggs with a terminal spine characteristic of *Schistosoma hematobium* (Panel and Video 2). In the video, a miracidium is seen as it emerges from the egg. The patient was treated with praziquantel, with resolution of the infection and the eosinophilia and hematuria. As seen in both of these cases, video photomicroscopy, even when performed through the eyepiece of a pocket camera, can be an informative tool.

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