CASE REPORT

SEVERE PENTASTOMIASIS IN CHILDREN: A REPORT OF 2 CASES

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Abstract. Pentastomiasis is a type of parasitic zoonosis. Most patients with pentastomiasis are asymptomatic. We report here two pediatric patients with severe pentastomiasis (porocephaliasis taiwan and armilliferiasis), and the results of their 6-year and 3-year follow-ups, respectively. The manifestations and outcomes of the two cases are described. The diagnoses were established by histopathologic and/or parasitologic examinations. After diagnosis, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), as well as praziquantel and/or albendazole, were used for treatment. This report highlights the seriousness of pentastomiasis in children. We suggest TCM be considered as supplementary or even primary treatment of children with severe pentastomiasis.

Keywords: parasitic diseases, porocephaliasis, armilliferiasis, armillifer, traditional Chinese medicine