

## CASE REPORT

### FOUR MISDIAGNOSED CASES OF VISCERAL BLEEDING CAUSED BY *HAEMADIPHA JAPONICA*

Xu Ji-Tuan

Nanzhuang Hospital, Nanhai City, Guangdong Province 528210, People's Republic of China

#### **Case 1: Lower gastrointestinal tract bleeding caused by *Haemadipha japonica* misdiagnosed as internal hemorrhoids.**

The patient, a male aged 56, was admitted to the hospital with lower gastrointestinal tract bleeding diagnosed as internal hemorrhoids on May 27, 1989. Two days before he felt a foreign body in his right eye with itching sensation and bleeding when he returned home from the mountain after cutting firewood. Next day he had a bloody stool ten times a day, about 30ml fresh blood each time, without mucus or tenesmus. The patient had been treated with a hemostatic drug and blood transfusion in the local hospital for three days, but the bleeding didn't stop. Then he was transferred to our hospital.

The patient looked acutely ill, with anemic face; bleeding was found in the right eye where one *Haemadipha japonica* (HJ) was taken out, with corneal ulceration and visual disturbance. Pupils were round with equal size and reactive to light. Neck was supple; lungs and heart were normal; abdomen was flat and soft, liver and spleen were not palpable. No mass was present on palpation. There was one parasite (1.5 × 0.2 cm) in the rectum, about 8 cm from the anus. In order to avoid bleeding we treated the patient with blood transfusion, oral hemostatic drug and honey. On the second day after the treatment, the bleeding stopped. The final diagnosis was lower gastrointestinal tract hemorrhage caused by *Haemadipha japonica*. The patient got well and was discharged after staying in the hospital for six days.

#### **Case 2: Vaginal hemorrhage caused by *Haemadipha japonica* misdiagnosed as ectopic pregnancy.**

The patient, female, aged 38, was admitted with dull pain localized in the lower abdomen and vaginal hemorrhage on July 10, 1990. The diagnosis was ectopic pregnancy. However, the patient had normal

periods, the last menstrual period was on June 29. She had tubal ligation two years before. One day before admission, the patient began to have dull pain localized in the abdomen and vaginal hemorrhage when she returned home after pasturing cattle in the mountain.

Superficial lymph nodes were not enlarged. Neck was supple. Lungs and heart were normal; liver and spleen were not palpable. No mass presented on palpation. There was slight pain on pressure in the lower abdomen. No rebound tenderness; bowel sound was normal. No blood or other fluid were drawn out by abdominocentesis. On gynecological examination, the vagina hemorrhage was found and there was one *Haemadipha japonica* (1.5 × 0.2 cm) in the middle of the vagina. To avoid serious bleeding we perfused the vagina with honey and gave the patient hemostatic drugs and blood transfusion. The next day, the bleeding stopped and the patient was discharged after staying in the hospital for four days.

#### **Case 3: Epistaxis caused by *Haemadipha japonica* misdiagnosed as simple bleeding.**

The patient, male, aged 9, was admitted on June 3, 1991 with epistaxis that had been diagnosed and treated by the local hospital, but the symptoms were not relieved. One day before admission when he returned home after having a bath at the mountain gully he felt his nose bleeding.

No icterus or bleeding were found in the skin or sclera. Left nasus was bleeding. No palpable evidence of superficial lymph node enlargement was found. Neck was supple; lungs and heart were normal and normal bowel sounds. It was found by nasoscope examination that there was one *Haemadipha japonica* (1.0 × 0.1 cm) in the left nasal cavity. Honey was perfused into the patient's nasal cavity and the patient took the hemostatic drugs for three days. The patient was well and discharged.

**Case 4: Ear bleeding caused by *Haemodipha japonica* misdiagnosed as caused by trauma injury.**

Patient, male aged 5, was transferred to our hospital by the local hospital which diagnosed the patient as traumatic ear bleeding on July 16, 1992. One the day when the patient pastured cattle in the mountain with his mother, he fell down and his left ear bled.

The left ear was bleeding. By otoscopy, one *Haemadipha japonica* was found in the left external auditory canal. Lungs and heart were normal. Abdomen was soft. Liver and spleen were not palpable. Normal bowel sounds. Patient was perfused with honey and the parasite removed. At the same time, the patient took drugs and received other symptomatic treatment, made complete recovery and was discharged.

*Haemadipha japonica* (HJ) grows in the dark and moist forest along the mountain valley and in the gully of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces or other coastal areas. Its size is about  $1.5 \times 0.2$  cm and it has a sucker as a leech. It can absorb on the skin surface of the human body and sucks blood. It can spring up to 1-2 meters distance. When it springs to the skin of the human body, it can climb and conceal in organs such as nose, anus, vagina, external auditory canal and so on. Then it sucks the human blood and its toxin can destroy the coagulation system. The general hemostatic drug does not respond to it. According to age proved folk medicine recipe, honey may make *Haemadipha japonica* lose its activity and have a hemostatic effect when the honey is perfused into the cavity organ. We used this method to treat above four cases with satisfactory effect.