

## Visual Treats in Dermatology

# Infiltrated and nodular pinna – A distinctive feature of lepromatous leprosy

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A 38-year-old male patient presented with thickening, infiltration, and nodularity of the ear lobes [Figure 1a] bilaterally for 1 year. In addition, he had diffuse infiltration of face, with madarosis of eyebrows [Figure 1b]. The patient also had bilateral thickening of greater auricular and ulnar nerves. Slit skin smear from ear lobule was highly positive (bacteriological index = 6+). Based on the characteristic history, clinical features, and slit skin smear, we made a diagnosis of lepromatous leprosy with ear involvement. *Mycobacterium leprae* preferentially affects the cooler body sites such as pinna and lobule. External ear manifestations of Hansen's disease include infiltration, nodule formation, ulceration with “nibbled” or “rat-bitten” defect, megalobule, and auricular chondritis. Infiltrated papular and nodular lesions in the pinna are a distinctive feature of lepromatous leprosy. However, this presentation can also be seen in trauma/hematoma, lupus pernio, lupus vulgaris, multicentric reticulohistiocytosis, lymphocytoma cutis, Rosai-Dorfman disease, relapsing polychondritis, and auricular pseudocyst. Since cases with isolated pinna involvement have



**Figure 1:** (a) Involvement of the pinna in the form of infiltration, nodularity, and thickening. (b) Diffuse infiltration of face with bilateral madarosis of eyebrows.

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been reported,<sup>[1]</sup> Hansen's disease should be considered in patients presenting with infiltrated, nodular lesions on pinna.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

Patient's consent is not needed as patient's identity is neither disclosed nor compromised.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

#### **REFERENCE**

1. Palaniappan V, Kaliaperumal K. Cauliflower ear in lepromatous leprosy. Am J Trop Med Hyg 2021;105:1444-5.

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