

## ACUTE ABDOMEN DUE TO DEAD WORM IN GALLBLADDER

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Occasionally acute epigastric pain occurs due to roundworms in gallbladder. Recently we found such a case and would like to report it considering its rarity.

### CASE REPORT

A woman of age 20 years came with the complaints of severe upper abdominal pain, vomiting and restlessness. Vomitus contained four dead

roundworms. Ultrasonography revealed distended gallbladder with a coiled bright structure which represented a dead ascaris (Fig.1).

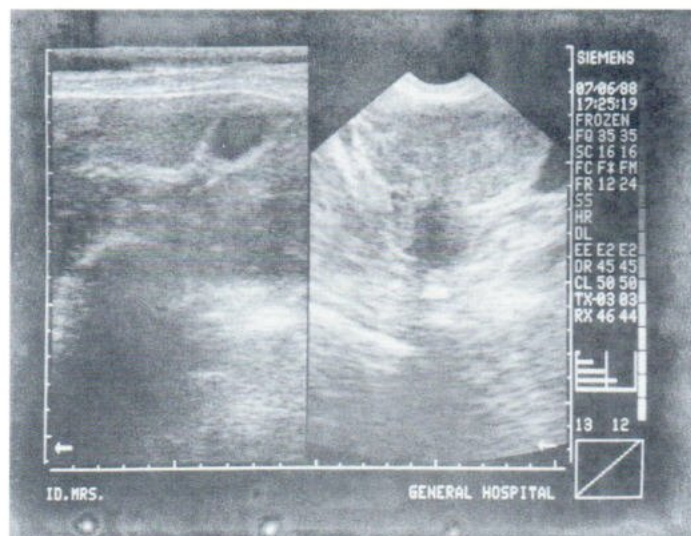


Fig. 1 Dead worm in gallbladder

### DISCUSSION

*Ascaris lumbricoides* was first discovered by Ligneous in 1758. The detailed life-cycle of the ascaris, however, was not known until 1916. One quarter of the world's population is infected with ascariasis.<sup>1</sup> Clinical manifestations may result from the migration of larvae through the lungs and from the presence of adult worms in the small intestine, hepatobiliary system and pancreatic ducts. The adult worms may measure up to 45 cm in length.

Sonography is a rapid non-invasive way of imaging which shows the ascariasis in the biliary tree as a bull's eye on transverse section, as a long echogenic shadow in longitudinal section or as coils or amorphous fragments,<sup>2-11</sup> intraluminal mass with 3 or 4 linear echogenic interfaces and sometimes round "target" sign.<sup>12</sup>

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