Malaria complicated by gangrene: a case presentation and review

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Abstract

Introduction

Symmetrical peripheral gangrene (SPG) was first described in 1891 [1]. It is now a well-documented, yet rare, disorder characterized by distal ischemic gangrene of two or more sites in the absence of large vessel obstruction or vasculitis [2]. Its pathogenesis is not well understood, and it has been linked to a wide variety of infective and non-infective etiological factors [3].

Malaria is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is reported that 300 – 500 million people are infected by the parasite annually, leading to a death toll of 1.1-2.7 million [4]. It has been reported as one of causes of SPG [3], although extremely rare. Despite the millions of malaria cases annually, there has only been 23 cases, over the years, to the best of our knowledge, reported to have complicated with SPG (Table 1). We hereby describe the first (1st) such case in Kenya, third (3rd) in Africa, and twenty fourth (24th) worldwide.