A Case Report of Tracheostomal Myiasis (Chrysomya bezziana larvae) in a 7-Year Old Boy

Background
Myiasis is the infestation of live human and vertebrate animals with dipteran larvae. It can be attributed to multiple factors, most importantly poor sanitation. Tracheostomal myiasis is a type of wound myiasis, of which worldwide case reports are extremely rare. An article reviewing related literature from 1990-2015 only reported 11 cases, with only 2 of these involving pediatric patients.

Case Discussion
A 7-year old boy was brought for consult due to foul odor from the tracheostoma. Three years prior to consult, he underwent tracheostomy tube insertion due to prolonged intubation for head injury secondary to gunshot wound. Four days prior to consult, he developed foul odor from the tracheostoma associated with pain. Persistence prompted consult wherein he was observed to have foul odor and crying in pain. Minimal grayish discharge was noted from the tracheostoma, with associated erythema of the surrounding skin. Upon closer inspection, multiple larvae was seen in the tracheostoma.

Management and Outcomes
The patient underwent tracheostoma exploration, debridement, removal of foreign body, and change of tracheostomy tube. A total of 143 maggots were removed. Each larva was approximately 8 to 10 mm long and 2 to 3 mm wide. Complete blood count showed leukocytosis, and chest radiographs showed bilateral pneumonia. Fiberoptic flexible endoscopy revealed no presence of retained foreign body but there is still presence of glottis adhesions. Wound swab gram staining and culture revealed neither bacterial nor fungal growth. Intravenous Cefuroxime was given to cover both the wound infection and pneumonia.

After 48 hours of antibiotics and daily tracheostomy care, erythema was resolved and no more discharges were noted.

Conclusion
Although rare, otolaryngologists must still be aware of this possibility. Hence, it is vital to provide proper health education on how to take care of tracheostomy stomas to prevent complications such as myiasis. Increasing the awareness of fly-induced illnesses such as myiasis could also help strengthen sanitation movements to control the fly population.

As a rare case in literature, this paper will further the information regarding myiasis, not only in Otolaryngologist interest but also in Infectious Medicine and social awareness as well.

References