

Leishmaniasis Recidivans in Rural Venezuela

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Clinical Presentation

A 66-year-old man presented with 2 asymptomatic ulcerations on the right cheek (Figure 1). These began as enlarging papules that ulcerated 2 weeks later. He had been treated for leishmaniasis a year previously, with an ulcer in the same location. Diagnosis had been made by skin biopsy and polymerase

chain reaction, identifying *Leishmania braziliensis*. At that time, he was given intramuscular meglumine antimoniate; his lesions had healed completely within 1 month.

Teaching Point

Leishmaniasis recidivans (LR) is a rare presentation of localized cutaneous leishmaniasis, recurring at the site of a previously healed ulcer [1], as in this case. It typically affects the face, often the cheek. *Leishmania braziliensis* is one of the species linked to New World LR. While the pathogenesis of LR is not known, risk factors include parasite resistance and incomplete treatment. Resistance to antimonials is increasingly a concern in some regions [2].

Figure 1. Two ulcerations on the right cheek, overlying scar from previous infection.



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