The Rise and Fall of Human Oesophagostomiasis

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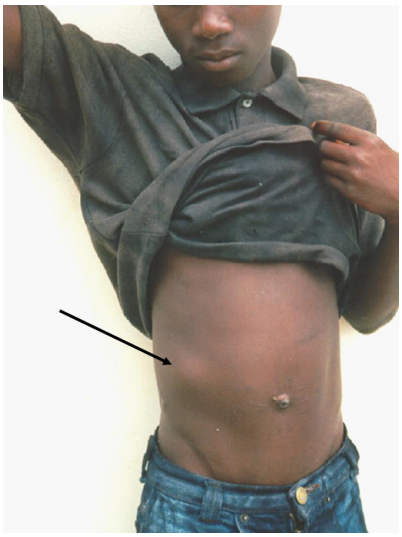
This article provides an overview of what is now known of *Oesophagostomum* as a parasite of man. Special attention is paid to the zoonotic characteristics of oesophagostomiasis since infection with the same or closely related species is a very common and sometimes serious infection in non-human primates. The focus of the overview is on the natural history of the parasite and the fragility of the host–parasite relationship that became apparent in the severity of pathology and in the unexpected success of attempts to control the infection

From the preface of 'Advances in Parasitology':

…. 'We are very pleased to include the final chapter by Ton Polderman of the Leiden University Medical Centre and colleagues on human infections of *Oesophagostomum.* This contribution provides a fascinating account of an unusual intestinal parasite and the consequences of infection in man, paying particular attention to studies in Ghana and Togo. Over the last 20 years or so, various clinical, epidemiological and molecular studies have helped to unravel the biology of this intriguing helminth parasite and the pathology caused by infection. Successful control is possible and for the time being it seems that transmission in northern Ghana may have ceased.'



The presentation of characteristic Dapaong Tumours. Characteristic Dapaong Tumours, mainly seen in children, vary from invisible, hardly palpable to disfiguringly and hard abdominal masses (Polderman et al., 2010)