

on the basis of signs and symptoms and delay in initiation of treatment may lead to adverse neurologic outcomes, especially in young children (10). Because the patient in this study had traveled to Suriname shortly before symptom onset, the country of origin of the infection could not be determined. The likely route of transmission was contact with a contaminated mollusk, such as the giant African snail *Achatina fulica fulica*, which is a new and invasive species in Latin America and a known vector for *A. cantonensis* roundworms. Our case illustrates the necessity for healthcare providers to consider angiostrongyliasis in cases of eosinophilic meningitis in the Guiana Shield, especially in young children.

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The authors have obtained a written consent to publish from the child's parents.

About the Author

Dr. Defo is a neurologic pediatrician at Centre Hospitalier Andrée Rosemon in Cayenne, French Guiana. His research interests include epilepsy and pediatric tropical infectious diseases.

etymologia

Angiostrongylus [an"je-o-stron'jĩ-ləs]

Ronnie Henry

From the Greek *angeion* (“vessel”) + *strongylos* (“round”), *Angiostrongylus* is a genus of parasitic nematodes (roundworms) in the family *Angiostrongylidae*, 2 species of which are known to parasitize humans. *A. cantonensis* (commonly known as rat lungworm) was first described in 1935 (as *Pulmonema cantonensis*) from rats in Canton, China. It is the most common cause of eosinophilic meningitis in Asia and the Pacific Basin, but cases have been reported in many parts of the world. *A. costaricensis* roundworms were first described in 1971 in Costa Rica from surgical specimens from children with eosinophilic infiltration in the abdominal cavity. The distribution of this species ranges from the southern United States to northern Argentina.

There is still debate about what taxonomic name should be used. *A. cantonensis* remains in general use, but some researchers suggest it should be changed to *Parastrongylus cantonensis* on the basis of the morphology of the adult male bursa and the definitive host being rats.



Adult *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* nematode recovered from rat lung. Image from *Enzootic Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in Rats and Snails after an Outbreak of Human Eosinophilic Meningitis, Jamaica, John F. Lindo et al, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 8, No. 3, March 2002.

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Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E03, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

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