

EP-020

안와 내측벽 골절 수술 중 발견된  
무증상 안구 *Thelazia* 감염 사례 보고

(Incidental Discovery of Asymptomatic Ocular  
Thelaziasis during Medial Orbital Wall  
Fracture Repair)



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**Purpose:** Thelaziasis is a rare zoonotic ocular parasitic infection caused by nematodes of the genus *Thelazia*. Most reported cases present with ocular irritation symptoms such as tearing, conjunctival injection, or foreign body sensation. However, asymptomatic infections may occur and remain undetected. We report a rare case of asymptomatic ocular thelaziasis incidentally discovered during surgical repair of a medial orbital wall fracture.

**Methods:** A 62-year-old man presented with a right medial orbital wall fracture after blunt facial trauma. The patient had no ocular symptoms and ophthalmologic examination revealed normal visual acuity and no conjunctival abnormalities. Orbital fracture repair via a transcaruncular approach was planned under general anesthesia. During surgical preparation prior to incision, two motile nematodes were unexpectedly observed in the medial conjunctival fornix and removed using sterile forceps. The organisms were examined microscopically for identification.

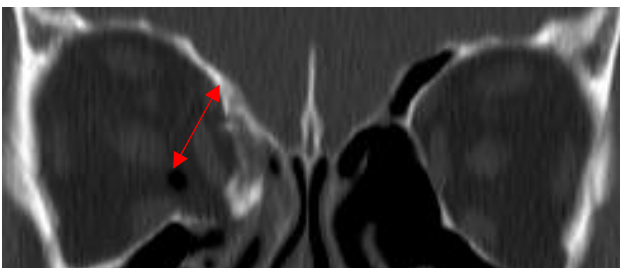


Fig 1.

**Results:** Microscopic examination confirmed the parasites as adult female *Thelazia* species. After removal, the planned orbital wall reconstruction using a porous polyethylene implant was successfully performed without complications. Postoperatively, the patient was treated with topical antibiotics. No residual parasites or ocular inflammation were observed at the postoperative day 14 follow-up.

**Conclusion:** This case demonstrates that ocular thelaziasis can occur without clinical symptoms and may be discovered incidentally during ocular surgery. The findings suggest that asymptomatic infestations may be underrecognized. Surgeons performing orbital procedures should remain aware of the possibility of incidental parasitic findings, particularly in endemic regions.



Fig 2.



Fig 3.