Live ‘Baby dance’ among the red blood cells
Praveen Sharma,¹ Pulkit Rastogi,¹ Vikarn Vishwajeet,² Man Updesh Singh Sachdeva¹

DESCRIPTION
A 35-year-old woman presented to outpatients with a 1-week history of high-grade fever and generalised malaise. General and systemic examination was unremarkable. On evaluation, her complete haemogram was within normal limits; however peripheral smear revealed the presence of thread-like larval forms of filaria, belonging to the species *Wuchereria bancrofti*. A wet mount preparation of the centrifuged whole blood sample was done, which demonstrated ‘dancing’ microfilaria, recorded in real time (see online supplementary video 1).

Dancing adult worms can be visualised within the dilated lymphatic channels on high-resolution ultrasound by their characteristic wriggling type movements, known as the ‘filarial dance sign’.¹ A wet mount of blood from a patient with microfilaraemia can demonstrate ‘dance sign’ of the baby worms under a microscope, identical to the parental wriggling movements. Microfilariae are larval forms, released into the blood from adult female worms inhabiting the regional lymphatic vessels. Circulating microfilariae are baby worms under a microscope, identical to the characteristic ‘microfilarial dance sign’.

Learning points
► Wet mount smears of the centrifuged blood sample can also be helpful in diagnosis of filariasis.
► ‘Microfilarial dance sign’ is the characteristic motility of the larval form and is observed only in wet mount smears.

REFERENCES

Copyright 2017 BMJ Publishing Group. All rights reserved. For permission to reuse any of this content visit http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions.

BMJ Case Report Fellows may re-use this article for personal use and teaching without any further permission.

Become a Fellow of BMJ Case Reports today and you can:
► Submit as many cases as you like
► Enjoy fast sympathetic peer review and rapid publication of accepted articles
► Access all the published articles
► Re-use any of the published material for personal use and teaching without further permission

For information on Institutional Fellowships contact consortiasales@bmjgroup.com

Visit casereports.bmj.com for more articles like this and to become a Fellow