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Cutaneous Leishmaniasis: Revisited

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Leishmaniasis is a vector borne disease, caused by protozoa of *Leishmania* species and transmitted by the bite of certain types of sandflies. The disease can present either as visceral, cutaneous or mucocutaneous forms with cutaneous leishmaniasis being the most common presentation.¹ It causes chronic non-healing wound in the exposed parts. The end result of the healing of the wound is a permanent scar which can be a cause of disability. While the visceral form known as Kala-azar, has drawn a significant attention of policy makers and is towards elimination, cutaneous leishmaniasis is still an under-recognized and neglected disease. The first case of cutaneous leishmaniasis from Nepal was reported in 2006.² Soon after it was

followed by a report of a case series of the same from Kathmandu.³ Once again, this issue highlights the importance of cutaneous leishmaniasis in our region by its larger caseloads in the mid-western region of Nepal. The work must be appreciated because of highlighting a neglected disease and for the effort that has been made to diagnose it in a resource limited setting with a minimally invasive technique like fine needle aspiration cytology. We hope that this issue will draw the attention of our policy makers to implement cutaneous leishmaniasis in the national guideline and to formulate a protocol for the effective management and control of the disease.

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