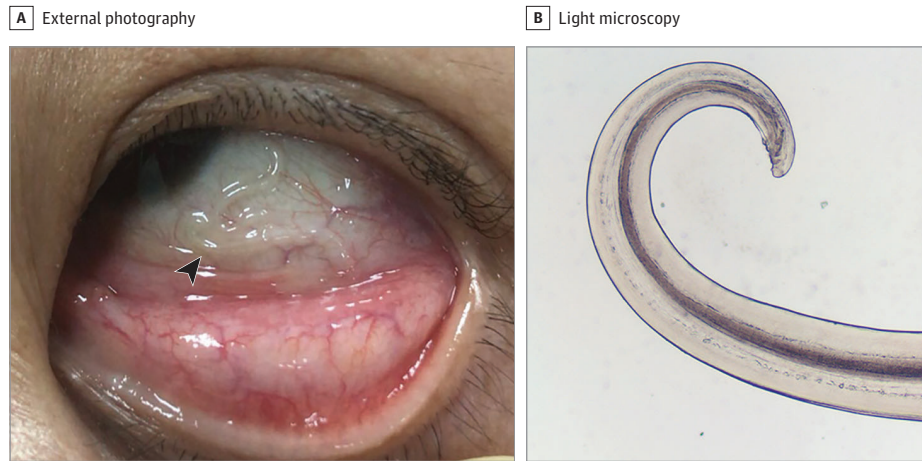


## Ophthalmic Images

Subconjunctival *Thelazia* in a Chinese Woman Aged 49 Years

Luyao Tong, MD; Zongduan Zhang, MD



**Figure.** A, *Thelazia callipaeda* beneath the nasal bulbar conjunctiva (arrowhead) during slitlamp examination. B, The characteristic curved tail end of the male *Thelazia callipaeda*; original magnification  $\times 100$ .

**A 49-year-old Chinese woman** presented with paroxysmal symptoms of a crawling sensation and pruritis in her left eye for 1 week. The patient recalled her left eye being hit by a fly 1 time 2 months earlier. Presenting visual acuity was 20/20 OU. Under slitlamp examination, simultaneous with the crawling sensation, movement of a white worm beneath the temporal bulbar conjunctiva could be observed (Figure, A). A 21-mm living worm was removed and identified as a male *Thelazia callipaeda*,

based on the curved tail end (Video and Figure, B). The symptoms resolved after removal of the worm. Visual acuity was maintained during the half-year follow-up.

*Thelazia callipaeda* has spread from Southeast Asia to all European countries. When a fly contacts the skin, the larva is released and develops in the lacrimal secretions; it is transmitted when flies feed on the secretions of hosts. Ocular thelaziasis manifests as conjunctivitis and keratitis or even leads to severe corneal ulcers and blindness.<sup>1</sup> It is rarely found beneath the conjunctiva; the worm tends to remain within the Tenon capsule.<sup>2</sup>

## ARTICLE INFORMATION

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