

## Dengue Fever

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**Picture 1.**



**Picture 2.**

A previously healthy 30-year-old man presented to the emergency department with fever, headache, and arthralgia for two days. Three days prior to admission, he had traveled in Vietnam for 10 days, where he was repeatedly bitten by mosquitoes. A physical examination did not reveal any abnormal findings, but the patient's laboratory tests revealed leukocytopenia and thrombocytopenia. A tourniquet test was performed, and many petechiae were observed on the skin below the cuff (Picture 1). A diagnosis was made based on the detection of dengue virus DNA in the patient's peripheral blood. On the fifth day of hospitalization, diffuse erythema that blanched on pressure was noted over the trunk and extremities with defervescence. These areas gradually fused, and a white island in a sea of red was observed (Picture 2).

A positive result on the tourniquet test reflects microvascular fragility in dengue patients. A finding of 20 or more petechiae in a one square inch area after applying pressure

for 5 minutes is considered positive (1).

**The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).**

### Reference

1. Cao XT, Ngo TN, Wills B, et al. Evaluation of the World Health Organization standard tourniquet test and a modified tourniquet test in the diagnosis of dengue infection in Viet Nam. *Trop Med Int Health* 7: 125-132, 2002.