

# PREDICTIVE FACTORS FOR *GNATHOSTOMA* SEROPOSITIVITY IN PATIENTS VISITING THE GNATHOSTOMIASIS CLINIC AT THE HOSPITAL FOR TROPICAL DISEASES, THAILAND DURING 2000-2005

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**Abstract.** This was a retrospective study of patients having *Gnathostoma* antibody testing at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Bangkok during 2000-2005 to investigate predictive factors for *Gnathostoma* seropositivity in patients attending the Gnathostomiasis Clinic. Out of 849 patients tested, 531 (62.5%) were *Gnathostoma* seropositive. The median absolute eosinophil counts were 464 (0-16,796) and 326.5 (0-10,971) cells/mm<sup>3</sup> in seropositive and seronegative patients, respectively ( $p < 0.001$ ). Differences in a history of cutaneous swelling, the habit of eating raw meat, eosinophilia ( $> 500$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), and the frequency of cutaneous swellings between seropositive and seronegative patients were all statistically significant. Patients with a history of eating raw meat and a history of cutaneous swelling were at 2.1 and 1.8 times more likely to be *Gnathostoma* seropositive, respectively. Logistic regression analysis showed eosinophilia was not a predictive factor for *Gnathostoma* seropositivity.

**Key words:** *Gnathostoma*, predictive factor, seropositivity, Thailand

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