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Dirofilariasis

INSERM

Source

INSERM. (1999). Orphanet: an online rare disease and orphan drug data base.

Dirofilariasis. ORPHA:166291

Dirofilariasis is a form of filariasis (see this term), caused by the filarial nematode of the genus *Dirofilaria* (including *Dirofilaria repens*, *Dirofilaria immitis*), which is transmitted by mosquitoes. The disease is characterized by the presence of subcutaneous nodules (or a conjunctival form that develops slowly and that can be painless to tender), edema and erythema at the site of parasite localization, a feeling of 'crawling' under the skin, and the "Calabar" swelling (similar to that in loiasis (see this term)). The latter may last a few days and recurrences are possible. Common localizations of *dirofilaria* are head and neck, most commonly in the periorbital region, the limbs and trunk.