CLINICAL AND PARASITILOGICAL PREVALENCE OF LEISHMANIASIS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN IN KEANA, AWE L. G. C. OF PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

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We report here cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis amongst school children aged between 6-22 years. The study was carried in Keana Village in the Jos plateau where 1120 students of primary/secondary schools were examined for active lesions. Smears were then made from lesions for confirmation by giemsa stained preparations for the presence of amastigotes.

The results are shown in Table.

The results are significant in view of possible occurrence of visceral leishmaniasis and its implication as an opportunistic infections in cases of HIV infected individuals (J. Alvar et al., 1989, J. Inf. Diseases, 160: 560-561).

Attempts are now been made to characterize and classify Leishmania parasites from Nigeria using molecular techniques. This preliminary study will be the first attempt to characterize Leishmania from Nigeria.

Acknowledgement: to the school heads and teachers of Government girls secondary school Keana, Government secondary school Keana, Keana south primary school and central primary school Keana. To Mr J. Jacob for technical assistance.

TABLE:

The results showing the prevalence of leishmaniasis in school children in Keana, Awe L.G.C. of Plateau State, Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Number screened</th>
<th>Number positive</th>
<th>% of infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G.G.S.S. Keana</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.S.S. Keana</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K.S.P.S.</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P.S. K.</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>5.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G.G.S.S.K: government girls secondary school Keana
G.S.S.K: government secondary school Keana
K.S.P.S: Keana south primary school
C.P.S.K: central primary school Keana

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