

SUMMARY OF THESIS*

DE MARCHI, Cláudia Regina - Avaliação da resposta imune humoral contra mucinas purificadas e recombinantes de *Trypanosoma cruzi*. São Paulo, 2002. (Dissertação de Mestrado - Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas da Universidade de São Paulo).

EVALUATION OF THE HUMORAL IMMUNE RESPONSE AGAINST PURIFIED AND RECOMBINANT MUCINS FROM *Trypanosoma cruzi*

The clinical laboratory diagnosis of chronic Chagas disease is routinely carried out using serological tests which employ crude extracts obtained from the non-infective epimastigote form of *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The existence in these preparations of numerous antigens and epitopes, which are shared by other microorganisms, in addition to the low serum dilution used in the conventional serological tests, frequently leads to inconclusive or false-positive results. Here, we have developed two new chemiluminescent ELISA tests: the first employs as antigens purified amastigote and trypomastigote mucins, collectively named TAKK-P; and the second uses as an antigen a recombinant mucin, named TSSA-II. Both tests were simultaneously evaluated for sensitivity and specificity using panels of sera with positive, negative or inconclusive results for conventional serology of Chagas disease, and also heterologous sera. The CL-ELISA with TAKK-P showed 100% sensitivity and 99.8

specificity, whereas the CL-ELISA with TSSA-II showed 89.9% sensitivity and 95.6% specificity.

Cláudia Regina De Marchi
Laboratório de Parasitologia do
Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo and
Laboratório de Investigação Médica-Parasitologia do
Hospital das Clínicas da USP
Av. Dr. Enéas de Carvalho Aguiar, 470, 1º andar, sala 15
05403-000 São Paulo/SP, Brasil
Phones: 55.11.3091-7271; 55.11.3066-7041
E-mail: claudiamarchi@yahoo.com.br

*This thesis is available at the Library of the Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo