

OCCURRENCE OF *Cryptosporidium* sp INFECTION IN INDIVIDUALS INFECTED BY HIV, SICK OR NOT, TREATED AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, BOTUCATU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - UNESP

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ABSTRACT: The objective of this work was to evaluate *Cryptosporidium* sp infection in HIV or AIDS patients treated at Botucatu University Hospital, School of Medicine, UNESP – São Paulo. One hundred and five patients were evaluated and divided into groups by CD4+T lymphocyte count of more or less than 200 cells/mm³, and with or without potent antiretroviral treatment. Between July 2002 and September 2003, we examined two stool samples from each patient. These samples were fixed in 10% formalin and sent to the Tropical Diseases Laboratory. They underwent centrifugal sedimentation by formaldehyde-ether. Slides were stained with auramine and confirmed by Ziehl-Neelsen modified technique. Occurrence of *Cryptosporidium* sp was 10.5%. There was no relation between sex, age, and diarrhea in the 11 cryptosporidiosis patients in this study. No positive stool sample patient lived in the rural area. The number of oocysts was small in all analyzed samples regardless of CD4+T lymphocyte count, HIV plasmatic viral load, and presence of diarrhea. This was also small in the only patient who had not received antiretroviral treatment. This may be justified by the general decrease of opportunistic infections, and specifically cryptosporidiosis, after starting potent antiretroviral therapy.

KEY WORDS: *Cryptosporidium* sp, AIDS.

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