

CARTA AO EDITOR

AN OUTBREAK OF CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS

We wish to report an outbreak of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Uberlândia, Indianópolis and Nova Ponte areas in the Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba regions. The 25 patients acquired the disease on the borders of the Araguari (22) and Paranaíba (3) rivers probably while fishing. 22 were male usually adults. 17 (68%) had a single lesion and 8 more than one (2 lesions in 4 individuals (16%), 3 in 2 (8%), 5 in

granulomas with rare Langehans type giant cells. In the one case from whom parasites were not isolated tuberculoid type granulomas were present. Direct immunofluorescence performed on frozen tissue in 5 patients showed irregular deposits of IgA, IgG, IgM C1g C3 fibrinogen and albumin in the dermis, epiderms and vessel walls. Positive fluorescent antibody tests occurred in 16 of 18 sera tested.

An interesting finding was the high number of positive imprints for amastigotes suggesting a Mexicana type infection but the poor growth in culture and hamsters favours a *Leishmania viannia braziliensis* type parasite². Taxonomic studies of these stocks are indicated.

Table 1 - Distribution of patients with ACL from Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba according to sex and age

Age (Years)	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
0- 4	1	0	1
5- 9	1	0	1
10-14	0	1	1
15-19	1	0	1
20-29	4	1	5
30-39	7	0	7
40-49	4	0	4
≥ 50	4	1	5
Total	22	3	25

1 (4%) and 10 in 1 (4%). The topographical distribution of all 46 lesions is shown in Table 1. All patients responded well to glucantime.

Of 23 patients in whom Giemsa stained tissue imprints from biopsy of the border of the lesion were examined 22 were positive for amastigotes in densities between 1 + (14 cases) 2 + (2 cases) and 3 + (6 cases) utilising the Werner scale³. No correlation between parasite density and time of evolution of the lesion was observed positive imprints were confirmed by positive cultures (NNN medium to which 3.7% of brain heart infusion was added¹). Twelve primary isolates were obtained by hamster inoculation. These stocks grew poorly *in vitro* and *in vivo*. 20 of the 23 patients biopsied on histological examination showed diffuse lymphoplasmohistocytic infiltration with foci of necrosis and a variable quantity of neutrophils. In 2 cases there were poorly organised epitheloid cell

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