

CARTA AO EDITOR

INTRARECTAL GLUCANTIME

Sir:

At the moment glucantime is still the only pentavalent antimonial in Brazil to treat leishmaniasis. Ampouled pentostam will shortly be available. Both drugs are subject to deterioration with keeping³. They are best stored in the dark at 4°C.

A recent report on the efficacy of quinine type antimalarials² applied rectally suggests that the intrarectal route be a feasible alternative to parental injection¹: it has been used in the past. Pharmacodynamics will be similar². It is a reasonable method of application for field use in children. With the mother present a soft rubber catheter is passed intrarectally after faecal evacuation and the correct daily dose, gravity infused, slowly in a saline diluent. Certainly much less traumatic than repeated injection.

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