

THE BURDEN OF VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS INFECTION IN CHILDREN OF A NEW ENDEMIC AREA IN BRAZIL: IS IT POSSIBLE TO STEM THE TIDE OF THE EPIDEMIC?

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Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) ranks second among the neglected diseases with higher prevalence in both subtropical and tropical regions and in the Americas, being that in 2013 Brazil harbored 96% of the cases. Despite the measures adopted throughout São Paulo state, there are evidences that VL is spreading in a fast and alarming way in the western region. Since 2005, when the first case was reported until 2015, human VL was found in 18/45 municipalities of the Regional Healthcare. During this period, 416 human cases and 27 deaths were reported. Our aim was to analyze the clinical characteristics of VL infected children treated in a regional reference university hospital, located in the western region of São Paulo state, as well as the regional measures adopted to control the spreading of VL. Preliminary results showed that from January 2009 to December 2013, 97 children were treated. The onset of symptoms,

diagnosis and treatment occurred in 19.3±13.54-25.04 days and the hospitalization time was 13.5±11.73-15.22 days. Laboratory parameters showed: Hemoglobin: 9.3±8.98-9.67.g/dL; Haematocrit: 29.2±28.25-30.15%; Platelets:163±139-187. cells/mm³; Leukocytes: 5.1±4.63-5.58 cells/mm³; Albumin: 3.1±2.96-3.23g/L; Globulins: 3.2±3.09-3.48g/L; AST: 106.9 ±74.78-138.9 UI/L; ALT: 50.3±35.58-65.06UI/L; Prothrombin: 12.9±12.37-13.48s. Among the measures taken are: health care workers' continued education; early treatment of humans and infected dogs; construction of vector/zoonosis centers; and implementation of increased education programs. Thus, onset diagnosis and curative practices fueled by integrated actions for monitoring the disease may stem the tide of VL infection in the western region of Sao Paulo state.

Biography

Luiz Euribel Prestes-Carneiro has been graduated in Oeste Paulista University (UNOESTE), President Prudente, São Paulo State, Brazil as Medical Doctor with the specialties of Infectious Diseases in the Ipiranga Hospital, São Paulo. Later on he obtained his Master degree from the Maringa State University, Paraná State and his PhD in the São Paulo University, São Paulo. Then started working at UNOESTE/Regional Hospital and in the State Hospital Dr. Odilo Antunes de Siqueira, President Prudente, where he has continued his research. Presently he is the coordinator of the Health Sciences Master program in the Oeste Paulista University.

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