

PSORIASIS

IDENTIFICATION OF LEISHMANIA DNA IN PSORIASIS AND/OR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENS UNDER IMMUNOSUPRESSIVE TREATMENT

Fernanda Suelen Jacques Sousa De Assis⁽¹⁾ - Patricia Shu Kurizky⁽¹⁾ - Lais Mitsue Tanaka Gonçalves⁽¹⁾ - Fernanda Ferraço Marianelli⁽¹⁾

Brasilia University Hospital, Dermatology, Brasilia, Brazil⁽¹⁾

Introduction: In Brazil, leishmaniasis is an endemic disease that can take years to develop. The need for screening these disease has been increasing due to the larger use of immunosupressive treatments.

Objective: To identify the DNA of Leishmania in patients receiving immunosuppressive drugs for psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis and residing in endemic areas.

Materials and Methods: Dermatology outpatients of the Brasilia University Hospital with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis were divided into 3 groups: patients on immunobiological drugs (anti-TNF, or anti-interleukins); patients on methotrexate; and patients on non-immunosuppressive treatment (topical, NSAIDs, phototherapy, or acitretin). There was a healthy control group.

The subjects underwent an interview, blood and lymph sampling for DNA extraction, followed by the PCR technique for Leishmania. Serologies were performed - indirect immunofluorescence for Leishmania.

Results: There were 311 patients included: 96 on immunobiological drugs, 94 on methotrexate (MTX), 69 on non-immunosuppressive treatment (NIST), and 52 controls. The PCR for Leishmania was positive in 12 (3 controls, 2 on NIST, 4 on MTX, and 3 on immunobiologicals). Indirect immunofluorescence for leishmaniasis was positive in 7 (2 controls, 2 on NIST, 1 on MTX and 2 on immunobiologicals).

Conclusion: Our findings show that there are subclinical infections with Leishmania in patients receiving immunosuppressive treatment. Patients whose tests are positive should be followed for higher risk of clinical manifestations, given immunity suppression could trigger them. There is the need for larger, prospective studies to clarify the influence of immunobiological therapies in these infections.





