



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

DISSEMINATED LEISHMANIASIS: SERIE OF 14 CASES IN THE STATE OF BAHIA, BRAZIL

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Introduction: Disseminated Leishmaniasis (DL) is a severe form of tegumentary leishmaniasis defined by presence of ten or more skin lesions in at least two different body regions. The main causal agent is *Leishmania braziliensis*. Patients can present ten to hundreds of acneiform lesions, inflammatory papules or ulcers. Mucous involvement can occur, with predominance of nasal mucosa. DL is an emerging disease in Brazil that occurs by interaction of genetic polymorphism of parasite, host immunity and environment.

Objective: Describe clinical and therapeutical characteristics of DL caused by *L. braziliensis*.

Materials and Methods: 14 patients selected from August 2012 to May 2016 in endemic area of tegumentary leishmaniasis (Corte de Pedra, Bahia, Brazil) diagnosed with DL by clinical and laboratorial findings.

Results: All of 14 patients were male (100%), mean age of 43.7 years. In 85.7% the first skin lesion was ulcer, mainly in lower limbs (57%). Time for dissemination after initial ulcer was 3 to 12 weeks. Fever and adenopathy presented in 36.3 and 54%, respectively, during dissemination. Median number of lesions was 57 (13-200), especially acneiform or inflammatory papules. Nasal mucosal involvement occurred in 36% of cases. Montenegro intradermoreaction was negative in 38%. None had HIV infection. After treatment only 20% cured with Glucantime 20mg/kg/day for 30 days, 42% with 2 or more months, and 38% after additional use of Amphotericin B.

Conclusions: DL is a severe form of leishmaniasis with predominance in male adults, and not associated with HIV immunosuppression in the endemic region. In most cases, ulcerated lesion occurs in lower limbs preceding cutaneous dissemination. During dissemination, many patients present systemic symptoms, suggesting hematogenic compromissement. Involvement of nasal mucosa is frequent, demanding otorhinolaryngological evaluation. High rates of therapeutic failure even with the use of





antimonial in high doses usually indicates the necessity of different treatment.

