

CASES OF ATYPICAL CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS CAUSED BY *LEISHMANIA INFANTUM*:
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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Clinical forms of leishmaniasis are related to *Leishmania* species enrolled in the infection and host immunological background. Cases of leishmaniasis caused by atypical etiological agents have been widely reported in the literature. However, there is no consensus regarding the clinical profile of these patients or the therapeutic approaches to be adopted. This systematic review and meta-analysis characterizes the clinical profile of patients with leishmaniasis caused by unexpected species of *Leishmania*. For this, we developed a study following PRISMA guidelines with focus on case reports of leishmaniasis caused by atypical agents published in the indexed journals on the Scielo, Cochrane, LILACS, PROSPERO and PUBMED. The search was conducted from July 19, 2024 to November 19, 2024. The following descriptors used “Leishmaniasis, Cutaneous” or “Leishmaniasis, Mucocutaneous” or “Leishmaniasis, Visceral” and “*Leishmania*” and “Atypical.” Then, we check the quality of the studies using the CARE protocol by two independent reviewers. A total of 115 articles were found, of which only 43 were eligible as case studies. To meta-analysis, we included a total of 50 participants. The total cases of atypical cutaneous leishmaniasis were caused by *Leishmania infantum* and the cases were not restricted to the disease endemic areas. The mean of the age was 46,5 years and women composed 32% (16/50) of the patients. Most of the patients were immunocompetent and 48% (24/50) presented ulcer lesions without clinical symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis. In addition, 34% (17/50) the patients were immunosuppressed, 18% (9/50) cases presented non-leishmania coinfections and 38% (19/50) cases presented therapeutic failure. In conclusion, the data indicate that the reported cases of atypical leishmaniasis are essentially caused by *L. infantum* and they differ from the dermatological disease described in the literature as post-kala azar dermal leishmaniasis.

Keywords: Atypical Leishmaniasis; *Leishmania* species; Meta-Analysis.