

SURVEY AND CHARACTERIZATION OF CASES OF HUMAN TEGUMENTARY LEISHMANIASIS: HISTOPATHOLOGICAL AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS

LUIS HENRIQUE SOUZA GADEA¹, CAROLINA CARVALHO DE SOUZA¹

¹ UFOB – UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO OESTE DA BAHIA, BAHIA, BRASIL

Cutaneous leishmaniasis (TL) is a dermatological infection caused by the multiplication of amastigote forms of *Leishmania* in cells of the mononuclear phagocytic system, affecting the skin and mucous membranes, usually with a benign evolution. In this sense, early and accurate diagnosis is crucial, but it faces challenges, such as low sensitivity, high cost and requirement of advanced infrastructure. Therefore, this study aims to characterize and analyze the cases of TL diagnosed in the Neumann anatomopathological laboratory between 2019 and 2024, as well as to evaluate the relevance of the immunohistochemistry technique in the diagnosis. Of the 57 cases analyzed, approximately 37 (64.9%) were men and 20 (35%) were women, with approximately 57.89% coming from private health insurance and 42.1% from the public service. The predominant age group was 41 to 60 years, with a total of 20 patients, 16 (80%) male and 4 (20%) female. The year 2021 had the highest number of notifications in the reference laboratory. Among the clinical findings described, a spectrum of chronic and ulcerated skin lesions were found, often confused in the clinic with leprosy and other skin alterations. This demonstrates the importance of histopathological analysis in the differential diagnosis, even in endemic areas. Histopathology and immunohistochemistry are essential for a more accurate diagnosis and targeted treatment, allowing for more assertive clinical and treatment conduct.

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