IMMUNE RESPONSE PROFILE OF PATIENTS INFECTED BY *LEISHMANIA* (*VIANNIA*) *GUYANENSIS* BEFORE TREATMENT WITH PENTAVALENT ANTIMONY (GLUCANTIME®).

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American cutaneous leishmaniasis (ACL) is a zoonosis caused by flagellates of the genus *Leishmania* and its pathogenesis is strongly influenced by factors inherent to the host, such as genetic factors and immune response, by factors inherent to the parasite, such as virulence of infecting species, and by factors related to the vector, such as vectorial capacity. In order to characterize the immune response of patients infected by *L. guyanensis* before treatment with Glucantime®, samples were collected from 17 individuals infected and 17 uninfected individuals (controls). Analysis of cellular profile Cell T and B lymphocytes, NK cells, monocytes, T regulatory cells and cytokines (IL-2, IL-5, IL-5, IL -6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12, IFN-γ and TNF-α) were done. The results showed that a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations can develop in accordance to the host immune response. Proinflammatory cytokines such as IFN-γ and IL-12 showed significant results ($p<0,0001$) with higher concentration (561,99/6) in patients prior to initiation of treatment. There was an increase in the normal ratio of $CD4^+$ ($p=0,0050$) to $CD8^+$ ($p=0,0001$) before treatment in the infected group (12/5). The NKT ($CD3^+/CD16^+/CD56^+$) cells concentrations were markedly lower (76% / $p<0,0001$) in patients prior to initiation of treatment when compared to controls. The concentrations of various components of immune response in patients compared to the controls varied and there was no uniformity in the profile of patients with the same disease, suggesting the presence $T_H1/T_H2/T_H17$ in response to infection by *L. guyanensis*.

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