CANINE VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOIANA/PE: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, CLINICAL AND LABORATORY CHARACTERIZATION

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Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a zoonosis of great importance to public health that has serious clinical repercussions. VL is caused by protozoa of the genus Leishmania sp., which is transmitted by the bite of females of the species Lutzomyia longipalpis. Dogs play an important role in the transmission cycle of VL, being considered the main domestic reservoir of the parasite, since due to their cutaneous parasitism they favor the infection of the sand fly. Thus, controlling the disease in the canine population makes it possible to reduce the occurrence of human visceral leishmaniasis (HVL). This study aims to identify dogs that are reactive to Canine Visceral Leishmaniasis (CVL) and identify areas at risk for the transmission of CVL in Goiana/PE. An active search was carried out through a draw in 09 locations in Goiana-PE, with a history of HVL. After the guardian signed the informed consent form (CEUA: 187/2023), the dogs were registered, clinically evaluated, and blood samples were collected for laboratory diagnosis. A Dual Path Platform Rapid Test (TR-DPP®) was performed as screening and an Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay (EIE-ELISA) as confirmatory. Molecular diagnosis (PCR) will be used to identify the parasite's DNA. The geographic coordinates of the dogs' residences were obtained to build the thematic map. As preliminary results, 78 residences were visited with 87 registered dogs, all of which were of mixed breed and aged between 7 months and 13 years, 43 (49.4%) males and 44 (50.6%) females. None of the animals showed clinical symptoms characteristic of CVL. Of the 80 samples submitted to the DPP, 32 (40%) samples were reactive, while 12 (15%) were reactive in the ELISA. Only 06 (7.5%) samples were reactive in ELISA and DPP. These data indicate the maintenance of CVL in the areas considered endemic in Goiana-PE, requiring the reassessment of control measures aimed at reducing the number of CVL cases in the municipality.

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