

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF *BLASTOCYSTIS* SUBTYPES IN PATIENTS WITH PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION OF BRAZIL

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Abstract

It has been a great challenge to explain whether *Blastocystis* is a pathogen or a common organism of the intestinal microbiota. In recent years, several studies have focused on the diagnosis of *Blastocystis* in immunocompromised individuals. The aim of the present study was to analyze *Blastocystis* subtypes circulating in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in an area of Southern Brazil. For this purpose, Genomic DNA was extracted of fecal samples from patients with diagnosed and undergoing treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis at the Reference Center for Tuberculosis Dr. Bruno Piancastelli Filho, city of Londrina, Paraná, Brazil. PCR amplification was performed using *Blastocystis*-specific SSU-rDNA primers and positive samples were subjected to sequencing. The sequences were aligned and compared with other sequences in GenBank. To date, only one subtype (ST1) was detected in the sequenced samples. We intend to sequence the remaining samples and further evaluate all the sequences obtained, as well as evaluate clinical data from these individuals. We recognize that studies evaluating the subtypes of *Blastocystis* circulating in the world are extremely important, especially in Brazil, where there is a shortage of studies with this purpose.

Keywords: *Blastocystis*, pulmonary tuberculosis, Brazil