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CANINE VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS: EVALUATION OF RESPONSE TO TREATMENT BASED ON CHEMOTHERAPY AND IMMUNOCHEMOTHERAPY

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Abstract

Canine visceral leishmaniasis (CVL) is an infectious, chronic, systemic disease caused by the protozoan *Leishmania infantum*, and dogs are considered the main reservoir of the parasite. Controlling the disease has been a challenge to public health, since there are few resources available and due to its geographic expansion. Treatment has limitations related to side effects, the possibility of resistant strains, and does not guarantee a parasitological cure. CVL is considered an immunomodulated disease, in which the animal's immune response is fundamental in the presentation of clinical manifestations and the course of the disease. Therefore, immunotherapy appears as a promising option, with the aim of restoring the Th1 cellular immune response, increasing levels of cytokines such as IL-2 and IFN-ɣ. The present study includes dogs naturally infected by L. infantum and aims to evaluate and compare the clinical and laboratory evolution of the treatments instituted. For this purpose, the animals were divided into three groups: one using miltefosine and allopurinol, the second using miltefosine, allopurinol and domperidone and the third using miltefosine, allopurinol and immunotherapy “A”. The protocol was established according to the staging of the animal (according to Brasileish) and three evaluation times were determined for analysis. For all times, clinical evaluation, blood collection for hemogram and biochemical examination, lymph node puncture for culture, biopsy of skin fragments to evaluate parasite load by PCR and histopathology were included. So far, it has been possible to observe the absence of adverse reactions to the application of the immunotherapy and a good clinical response.

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