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SUMMARY OF THESIS*

SOTTO, Mirian Nacagami - **Dendrócitos dérmicos fator XIIIa positivos na resposta tecidual cutânea da leishmaniose tegumentar americana.**
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FACTOR XIIIa POSITIVE DERMAL DENDROCYTES IN AMERICAN TEGUMENTARY LEISHMANIASIS CUTANEOUS TISSUE RESPONSE

The role of Langerhans cells in the pathogenesis of skin infectious diseases is well studied, however, there are few papers addressing factor XIIIa positive dermal dendrocytes (FXIIIa+DD) involvement in such processes. FXIIIa+DD are bone marrow-monocytic lineage derived cells and members of the skin immune system. Due to their immune phenotype and functional characteristics they are considered complementary cells to Langerhans cells in the process of antigen presentation and inducing immune response. In order to verify the role of FXIIIa+DD in the immunopathologic mechanisms of tegumentary leishmaniasis lesions, skin biopsies of 47 patients were subjected to immune-histochemistry technique using anti-factor XIIIa antibody. Their population in the lesions was compared to that found in a normal skin control group. The interaction between FXIIIa+DD and parasites was verified by a double

staining technique using anti-factor XIIIa and anti-*Leishmania* antibodies. FXIIIa+DD were plump and numerous in American tegumentary leishmaniasis lesions when compared to normal skin. There was no difference in their number according the characteristics of the inflammatory reaction: non-specific or granulomatous. FXIIIa+DD harboring parasites were observed in 11 out of 22 biopsies. The data obtained suggested that FXIIIa+DD play a role in the pathogenesis of leishmaniasis skin lesion as host cell, immune effector and/or antigen presenting cell.

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