

The aim of the present study was to investigate the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections in a Romanian Children Care Unit. Stool examinations were performed using the iodine staining for the identification of protozoan cysts and the Willis-Hung method, a special technique for the identification of helminth eggs. We investigated 80 institutionalized children aged 2 to 8 years. Parasitic infections were identified in 22 cases (27.5%). *Giardia lamblia* (17.5%), *Blastocystis hominis* (1.2%), *Entamoeba coli* (3.7%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (5%), *Trichuris trichiura* (6.2%), *Enterobius vermicularis* (6.2%) and *Hymenolepis nana* (2.5%) were diagnosed. We have determined associations of two (27.3%) and more than two parasites (13.6%) among the children with intestinal parasitosis.

We have also evaluated 16 adults, members of the medical staff, working in this unit. Parasitic infections were diagnosed in 6 cases (37.5%). *Giardia lamblia* (25%), *Blastocystis hominis* (12.5%) and *Trichuris trichiura* (12.5%) were also identified in adults. Association of two parasites was observed in 33.3% of the positive cases among the members of the medical staff. Clinical examinations were conducted to investigate the presence of symptoms in patients. Clinical signs (diarrhoea, weight loss, abdominal pain and cutaneous manifestations) were present in children and their medical staff as well. Our results suggest a possible transmission of the parasites within this pediatric unit.

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Investigations of Clinical and Demographical Findings of Children with Positive Stool Specimen with Non-pathogenic Intestinal Parasitic Infections

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Background: Some parasites have been considered non-pathogenic, but this classification has some limitations according to recent reports indicating it could be the cause of different intestinal symptoms and signs. In order to understand the clinical significance of *Blastocystis hominis* and other non-pathogenic protozoans, it is important to estimate the characteristics of cases, probably infected with non-pathogenic intestinal parasites. This aim of this study was to evaluate clinical characteristics of children with positive stool-specimen with these intestinal parasites. **Material and Method:** In this study, 46 children (22 boys, 24 girls) aged between 7–203 months (mean 105.0 ± 50.4 months) whose stool examination revealed *B. hominis*, *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Endolimax nana*, *Cryptosporidium* spp., were evaluated for clinical symptoms and demographical findings. For parasitological examination, stool samples prepared by formol-ethyl acetate concentration and after saline and iodine preparations for microscopic examination under 10× and 40× magnification. Also trichrome stained preparations in ambiguous amoebas cases and modified Erlich Ziehl

protozoans infections. Children with other bacteriological and parasitological agents were excluded.

Results: *B. hominis* was the most common intestinal parasite. The frequency rate of intestinal symptoms was 88.4% in the *B. hominis* cases and 63% of total group. Abdominal pain was the most frequent symptom (76.9%). Diarrhea and distention followed at a rate of 50.0% and 32.6%. Weight loss and loss of appetite are the following main findings of these children. 39.1% of these patients have been received treatment and responded favorably to treatment with metronidazole for 10 days.

Conclusions: Some non-pathogenic parasites are responsible of gastrointestinal symptoms when it is found in high numbers in the stool and when there no other parasites. It is important to estimate the characteristics of cases with *B.hominis* and other non-pathogenic protozoans for treatment options.

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American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in the Urban Area from Ilhéus Cit, Bahia State. Characterization of Autochthones Human Cases and Risk Factors Associated

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Brazil currently confronts the spreading and urbanization of American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL), in big and middle-sized cities, which is primarily zoonotic and related to forest environments. The present work valued the epidemiologic aspects of ACL in Ilhéus, and the possible risk factors associated to its appearance in the urban area of this city. A revision of all investigation cards of ACL cases in Ilhéus, registered by the SVE/SMS/Ilhéus from January 2000 to December 2006 was performed, analyzing the follows information about the referred cases: age, sex, clinical forms, diagnostic date and illness evolution. A study on phlebotomine sand fly occurrence in the urban area of Ilhéus was carried out from March to August 2006, using CDC light traps. The canine infection was investigated through indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) and BIOGENE enzyme-linked immunosorbent antibody test (ELISA) for calazar canine. Additionally, a matched case-control study was carried out involving the human population. Analysis of investigation records showed that ACL affects mainly adult subjects, with cutaneous lesions as the principal clinical form. The seasonality analysis showed the probable infection period to be quarter September-November (Spring). No statistically significant correlation was observed ($p < 0.05$) between case number and climate data (rain fall, humidity and temperature). On the other hands, periods with high rainfall and humidity showed a smaller number of cases. *Lu. Cortelezzii* was the one species collected in urban area. Three seropositive dogs were identified by the immunofluorescence assay. The case-control study showed that the age group 13 to 44 years ($p = 0.0061$; OR = 0.13; 95% CI = 0.076–0.22), living close to woodlands, was associated with decreased risk; the habit of going to the rural area of Ilhéus showed to be a