

LEISHMANIOSE TEGUMENTAR E DOENÇA DE CHAGAS. EXPECTATIVAS E PERSPECTIVAS EM UM MUNDO EM TRANSFORMAÇÃO

Perspectives and Expectations of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis and Chagas Disease in a changing world

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Transformations in the environment are primarily linked to man's activities but how do they affect two important vector borne endemic diseases, such as cutaneous leishmaniasis and Chagas Disease? Some may bring him into greater contact with the vectors, while others may modify the environment, creating ecological niches that favor the reproduction of the vector and the reservoir. Following this there is a potential increase in the vector population which may result in epidemic situations that are difficult to control due to their rapid appearance and magnitude.

The professional activities that bring man into contact with zoonotic ecotopes range from research scientists to personnel of the armed forces who are either on training manoeuvres or military campaigns. However, besides this other individuals are forced to leave their native environment due to war or social pressures caused by natural disasters, such as droughts. In such cases they may be exposed to infection when they enter the enzootic's environment or introduce the disease into non-endemic areas. Examples of these situations abound in the cutaneous leishmaniasis literature on both sides of the Atlantic.

Similarly these same principals apply to Chagas disease in the Americas.

With globalization tourists are an important source of income in areas that are endemic for both cutaneous leishmaniasis and Chagas disease. Diagnosis and treatment may be difficult for them, since their symptoms often appear when they are arrive back home where the disease is unknown.

In the presentation examples are given of different situations in which innovations in the transmission of both cutaneous leishmaniasis and Chagas disease are linked to behaviour or changes in the environment.

So what can we expect in the future? Climate and ecological changes will create more ecotopes that are propitious for both sand flies and triatomid bugs as well as reservoirs, especially within the peridomestic and domestic environments, which will increase transmission. So the challenge is to identify these situations and evaluate the feasibility of control measures. To do this it is essential that the dynamics of the enzootic cycles are known which in most cases they are not.