UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BASIC COUNTRY DATA

Total Population: 309,050,816
Population 0-14 years: 20%
Rural population: 18%
Population living under USD 1.25 a day: no data
Population living under the national poverty line: no data
Income status: High income economy: OECD
Ranking: Very high human development (ranking 4)
Per capita total expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US dollar): 7,410
Life expectancy at birth (years): 78
Healthy life expectancy at birth (years): 69

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Canine VL (L. infantum) is highly prevalent among dogs, but autochthonous human cases have not been reported to date. Outbreaks in foxhound kennels occurred in 18 states (data only available for 2000-2003) and surveys in kennels demonstrated 326 seropositive dogs and 62 parasitologically confirmed infections [1]. VL is an imported disease among returning soldiers, but it is very rare [2].

CL is very common among returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan; hundreds of cases have been reported [2]. CL is also often imported from Latin American countries. Autochthonous CL in humans is very rare, but occurs in Texas and Oklahoma; zoonotic L. mexicana transmission was demonstrated in Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona [3]. The first autochthonous case of CL was reported in Texas, near the Mexican border, in 1903. Until 1993, 26 more autochthonous cases were documented in Texas alone [4]. Exposure to vector and reservoir is predicted to have doubled by 2080, as the presence of both will extend northwards, in line with climate change [5].

HIV/Leishmania co-infection is very rare (to date, less than 5 in total) and there have only been imported cases so far.
PARASITOLOGICAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leishmania species</th>
<th>Clinical form</th>
<th>Vector species</th>
<th>Reservoirs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L. mexicana</td>
<td>ZCL, DCL</td>
<td>Lu. anthophora, Lu. diabolica</td>
<td>Neotoma spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. infantum</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Canis familiaris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAPS AND TRENDS

Cutaneous leishmaniasis

![Map showing geographical distribution of cutaneous leishmaniasis cases in Arizona and Texas.](image)

Cutaneous leishmaniasis cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTROL

An epidemiological surveillance system has been in place since 1980. Notification of leishmaniasis is not mandatory and there is no national leishmaniasis control program. Case detection is passive. Vector control, which relies on education and spraying, is carried out whenever cases are detected. However, the current registration system does not record these activities. Positive dogs are sacrificed only if the owner agrees.

DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT

Diagnosis:
CL: microscopic examination of skin samples and PCR.

Treatment
CL: antimonials, 20 mg Sb⁷⁺/kg/day for 20 days. Second line is with liposomal amphotericin B.
ACCESS TO CARE

Care for leishmaniasis is not free; the cost depends on the individual health insurance of the patient. Antimonials (Pentostam, GSK) is provided for free through the CDC drug service, but other drugs must be obtained through the private sector (may be covered by insurance). The military service treats cases in military personnel.

ACCESS TO DRUGS

The USA does not have an essential drug list. Drugs for leishmaniasis, such as liposomal amphotericin (AmBisome, Gilead), are sold in private pharmacies, for commercial prices. Miltefosine is available, but very expensive (one adult treatment costs $5,714.80). Antimonials and miltefosine are not registered. There are plans to register miltefosine (Paladin, Canada) in 2010.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION


