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ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE OF CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS IN CENTRAL TUNISIA

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Introduction: Zoonotic cutaneous leishmaniasis (ZCL) is widespread in many regions including the Middle East and the Mediterranean. In Tunisia, it's endemo-epidemic in rural areas in the center of the country. Active surveillance in this region was implemented since 2009 to strengthen the routine national surveillance system, based on a passive detection and reporting of ZCL cases.

Methods: The study was conducted from July 2009 to June 2016 as part of the active surveillance of ZCL in three areas in Sidi Bouzid, a governorate in central Tunisia. Data collection was based on the notification reports of all new cases in the primary health care facilities as well as the active search of cases in schools.

Results: During the study period, 1647 cases of ZCL were collected. The male to female sex ratio was 1.1. The median age was 11 years, ranging from 2 months to 87 years. Children aged less than 9 years were the most affected (20,4%). Most of the lesions were in the lower and upper extremities (respectively 35,4% and 23,4%). The face was affected in 21,4% of the cases. Local treatment alone was received in 51,8% of the cases. It was associated with Glucantime intralesional injections in 17,4% of the cases. The evolution was favorable in most of the cases (83,2%). Hospitalization was needed for 10 patients (0,6%).

Conclusion: The active surveillance of ZCL in Sidi Bouzid, central Tunisia allowed us a better understanding of the characteristics of the infection in this vulnerable population in order to reinforce the control and preventive measures.

Biography

Dr Hind Bouguerra has completed her medical studies at the age of 26 years from the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, Tunisia. She has specialized in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. She has a master of biostatistics, epidemiology and clinical research from the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis. She has worked in the Laboratory of Epidemiology at Pasteur Institute of Tunis and in the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases of Tunisia, participating in many papers. She has worked mostly in epidemiological surveillance including leishmaniasis, viral hepatitis and influenza in Tunisia.

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