

Presentation 5 - Alan Magill

Leishmaniasis in Veterans of Desert Storm & Iraqi Freedom



Alan J. Magill MD, FACP
Science Director
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

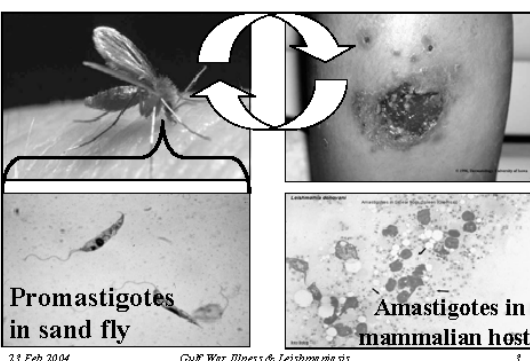
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The Leishmaniases

- A diverse group of protozoan parasites
- Intracellular pathogens of the macrophage
- Different clinical manifestations / syndromes
- Zoonosis
 - Sand fly insect vector
 - Mammalian reservoir(s)
- Anthroponotic
 - Man is incidental host
 - Indian VL and *L. tropica* CL are exceptions

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Leishmania Parasite Life Cycle



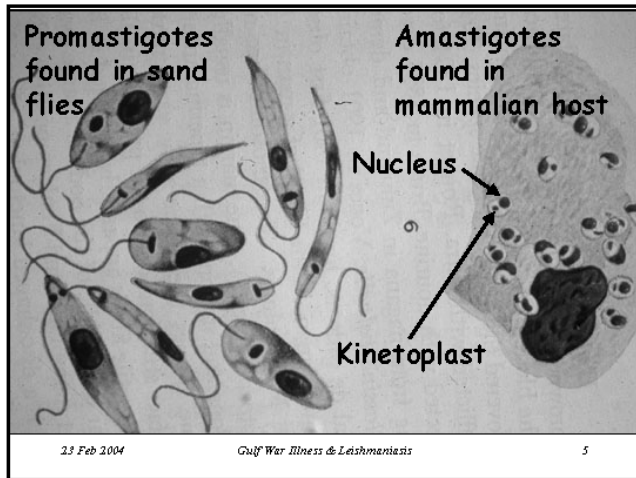
Promastigotes in sand fly

Amastigotes in mammalian host

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Leishmania infection and 1990-91 Gulf War

- What did we expect to see?
 - NEJM article, 21 Mar 1991. 324; 859
- Typical Cutaneous Leishmaniasis
 - *L. major* parasites
 - Desert rodent reservoir
 - *Ph. papatasi* sand fly vector
- N = 20 cases
- Visceral Leishmaniasis not described

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Leishmania infection and 1990-91 Gulf War

- What else did we see?
- Atypical “viscerotropic leishmaniasis”
 - *L. tropica* parasites
 - Desert rodent or human reservoir??
 - Sand fly vector?
- N = 12 cases, parasitologically confirmed
- N = ?? cases total

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What was unusual?

- Did not expect to see VL in Saudi Arabia
- Atypical, non-specific clinical syndrome
 - Not typical Visceral Leishmaniasis
 - Smear negative, culture positive
- Isolation of *Leishmania* from bone marrow
- Characterization of isolates as *L. tropica*
- Difficult diagnosis, insensitive tests

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NEJM. May 13, 1993

Table 1. Clinical Presentation of Eight Male Patients with Visceral Leishmaniasis, at the Time of Confirmatory Culture.

PATIENT No.	INCUBATION PERIOD (MO)	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS AT PRESENTATION	FEVER	ABDOMINAL PAIN*	MALADIE*	FATIGUE*	PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
1	2	Adenopathy	Yes	++	+	++	Hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, adenopathy
2	1-4	Fever	Yes	+	++	+	Normal findings
3	2-3	Gastroenteritis	No	+++	+++	+	Splenomegaly
4	2-6	Nose	No	No	No	No	Normal findings
5	4-12	Chronic fatigue with hepatosplenomegaly	Yes	+	+	+++	Hepatomegaly, splenomegaly
6	7-14	Chronic fatigue with adenopathy	No	+	+	+++	Hepatomegaly, adenopathy
7	1-6	Mononucleosis	Yes	+/-	+++	+	Normal findings
8	3-12	Fever of unknown origin	Yes	+	++	++	Hepatomegaly, splenomegaly

*One plus sign indicates that the patient reported the symptom when questioned by the examiner; two plus signs, that the patient himself reported the symptom without questioning; and three plus signs, that the symptom was the primary one. Patient 7, represented by the plus-minus sign, reported abdominal pain of brief duration associated with diarrhea.

Leishmania in 1st Gulf War



- Characterizations of *L. tropica* based on CAE of 21 enzymes
- 3 clusters of *L. tropica*
- *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 1993. 49:357

Visceral Leishmaniasis



- **Classic "pentad"**
 - Fever
 - Cachexia
 - Splenomegaly
 - Pancytopenia
 - Hypergamma-globulinemia
- *L. donovani*,
L. infantum/chagasi

Clinical Presentation of VL in the Immunocompetent, Well Nourished Adult

- *Most and Levietes. 1947. Medicine. 26:221*
 - N=30, US military in WWII
 - Incubation period: 3 weeks to 33 months
 - Symptom onset to definitive diagnosis, mean 10 weeks (range 2 -26 weeks)
 - Abrupt onset of fever and chills - 96%
 - Splenomegaly in 90% and hepatomegaly in 73% when Dx confirmed
 - Parasitologic diagnosis
 - 21 of 49 (43%) smears from bone marrow aspirations in 29 patients were (+)
 - 8 of 29 (28%) were not confirmed by bone marrow
 - 18 of 18 (100%) splenic aspirates were both smear and culture positive

Visceral Leishmaniasis Disease Spectrum

1-3% with overt VL

- “Subclinical” Syndromes
 - Chronic systemic illness
 - Acute febrile illness
- Risk factors for progression
 - Malnutrition
 - Immunosuppression (AIDS)
 - Genetic?
- Cause of death
 - Measles
 - Pneumonia
 - TB
 - dysentery

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“Subclinical Disease”: Brazil

- Prospective pediatric cohort study, Bahia
- N = 86 seroconversion, 5 year follow-up
- 28 of 86 (33%) progressed to VL between 2 weeks and 15 months
- 20 of 86 (23%) remained asymptomatic
- 38 of 86 (44%) had a prolonged “subclinical” illness, resolved 35 mo on average
 - Intermittent hepatomegaly, diarrhea, failure to thrive, fatigue, malaise

Badaro R, Jones TC, Lorenzo R, et al: A prospective study of visceral leishmaniasis in an endemic area of Brazil. J Infect Dis 154:639, 1986

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“Subclinical Disease”

- Perception of ill health and disease is culturally and resource dependent
- “subclinical” in the favelas of Brazil or rural Bihar, India = overt disease in suburban North America
- Cannot extrapolate reported experience in endemic areas to non-immune, immunocompetent adults

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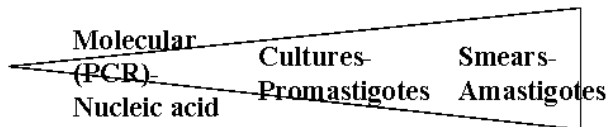
Spectrum of Disease : Diagnosis

Oligoparasitic
Polyparasitic

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Choice of Diagnostic Test?

- Sensitivity of diagnostic test depends on parasite burden and thus clinical syndrome



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Other Systemic Syndromes: “Viscerotropic”

- Acute febrile illness
 - Self limited?
 - Progressive to VL
 - Weeks to months
- Adenopathy
 - Localized, generalized, transient
- Chronic gastrointestinal syndromes
- Failure to thrive

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Diagnosis

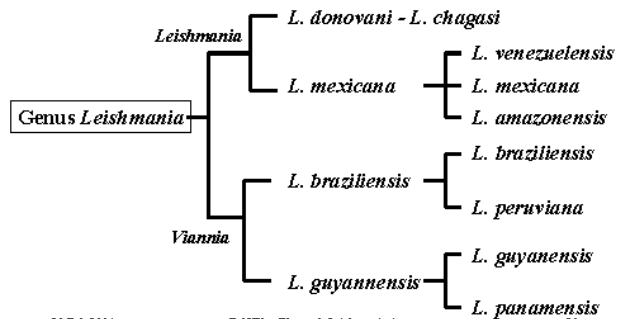
- **Parasitologic diagnosis = confirmed diagnosis**
 - Smear, Culture, Antigen detection, PCR
- **Availability**
 - Routine clinical versus specialty labs
- **Clinical recognition**
 - Classic syndromes versus Gulf War *L. tropica*
- **Walter Reed Army Medical Center referral bias**

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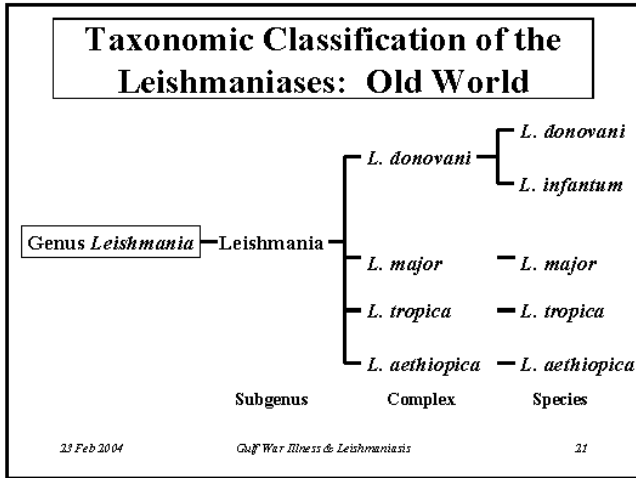
Taxonomic Classification of the Leishmaniases: New World



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What is a Leishmania species?

- Classic definition
- Type organism isolated from a location and clinical syndrome (reference strain)
- Characterized by zymodeme analysis

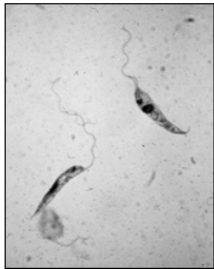
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L. tropica Reference Strains

	Where isolated	Source	International Ref No.	Clinical Manifestation
<i>L. tropica</i>	USSR Turkestan	Man	MHOM/SU/60/LRC-L39	CL
<i>L. tropica</i>	Iraq	Man	MHOM/IQ/00/Avraham	LR
<i>L. tropica</i>	Iraq	Man	MHOM/IQ/66/L75	CL

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What is a zymodeme?



- Electrophoresis of parasite pellet
- 3 vs. 7 vs. 11 vs. 21 isoenzymes
- How different is different enough?
- Importance of minor enzyme allomorphs?

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Other ways of classification

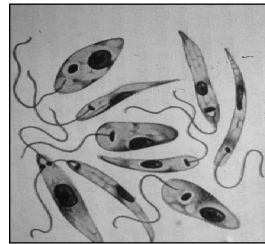
- PCR based methods
 - kDNA
 - rRNA
 - Repetitive nuclear sequences

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They may look the same...



- Different parasites
- Different diseases
- Different epidemiology
- Different vectors
- Different reservoirs

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Examples of Lt causing VL

- Kenya
 - Am J Trop Med Hyg 41:289
- Israel
 - Personal communication
- India
 - Ann Trop Med Parasitol 75:131
 - Lancet. 1995 Apr 15;345(8955):959-61
- Morocco
 - Ann Trop Med Parasitol. 2002 Sep;96(6):637-8.

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L. tropica Genetic Heterogeneity

- Isoenzyme profiles of 27 stocks of *Leishmania tropica* from widely separated geographical areas were compared with those of reference strains of *L. tropica* and *L. major* using starch-gel electrophoresis of 13 enzymes (GPI, GD, ES, PGM, PEPD, NH, ASAT, ALAT, PK, MPI, 6PGD, SOD, MDH).
- 18 zymodemes were seen.
- *L. tropica* showed considerable intraspecific variation which did not correlate with its epidemiological uniformity.
- Isolates from cases of cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis and leishmaniasis recidivans were identified as *L. tropica*.
- Only one isoenzyme band was held in common with the enzyme profile of the *L. major* reference strain thus supporting the status of *L. tropica* as a separate species.
- *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 1986;80(1):113-9

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Clinical heterogeneity: the Host

- **Near identical *L. tropica* isolates**
 - Nested PCR of kDNA
 - Restriction digests of amplicons
 - Shared fingerprint = schizodeme
- **Epidemic outbreak in a refugee camp**
- **21 isolates**
 - Nodular, 4-21 lesions, 1-12 mo duration
 - Outcome dependent on host response
- **J Clin Microbiol. 1998. 36:2877**

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Can Cytokines Cause Disease?

- **Acute disease**
 - **Fever, malaise, myalgias, arthralgias, fatigue, anorexia, nausea**
 - **Influenza, dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, etc.**
 - **TNF α , INF γ , IL-2, IL-12, etc.**

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Can Cytokines Cause Disease?

- **Chronic disease**
 - **Fever, malaise, myalgias, arthralgias, fatigue, anorexia, nausea**
 - **Inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis,**
 - **TNF α , INF γ , IL-2, IL-12, etc.**

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Side Effects of IFN γ as Therapy

- **Constitutional: flu-like illness, fever, rigors, arthralgia, myalgia, fatigue**
- **Neuropsychiatric**
 - **depression**
 - **insomnia**
 - **irritability**

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Persistent *Leishmania* Infection

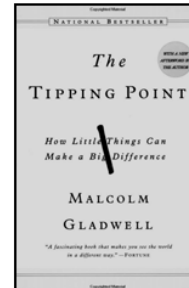
- Intracellular pathogen of the macrophage
- Lifelong, persistent infection
- Treat disease, never eradicate parasites
- Mycobacteria: TB, leprosy
- Bacteria: *Brucella*
- Fungal: *Histoplasma*
- Viral: *HIV*

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The Tipping Point Malcolm Gladwell



- "Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do"
- "... small numbers of people start behaving differently, that behavior can ripple outward until a critical mass or "tipping point" is reached..."
- Role of media

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