

Kožna lajšmanijaza

Cutaneous leishmaniasis

Slavica D. Dacić, Dragana M. Ivanović, Ljiljana S. Pavlović

Slavica D. Dacic, Dragana M. Ivanovic, Ljiljana S. Pavlovic

Institut za javno zdravlje Srbije, Centar za mikrobiologiju, Beograd, Srbija

Public Health Institute of Serbia, Microbiology Center, Belgrade, Serbia

Sažetak

Uvod: Najčešći oblik lajšmanijaze je kožna lajšmanijaza. Manifestuje se lezijama na nezaštićenim delovima kože koje ostavljaju ožiljke. Uzročnici su protozoe iz roda *Leishmania*, više od dvadeset vrsta. Klinički tok bolesti i terapija zavise od vrste lajšmanije. Nosioci lajšmanijaze su muve iz roda *Phlebotomus*, a izvori infekcije su ljudi i životinje.

Prikaz slučaja: Pacijent je radio u Iraku. Zbog promena na koži koje su trajale tri meseca i sumnje na kožnu lajšmanijazu, upućen je u Institut za javno zdravlje Srbije - IZJ-ZS od strane infektologa iz Opšte bolnice Pančevo. Promene su bile lokalizovane na rukama u vidu plakova sa centralnim ulceracijama. Sličnih slučajeva je bilo i među kolegama. Mikroskopski pregled uzoraka kože bojenih po Giemsa-i (*Giemza*) pokazao je intracelularne amastigote *Leishmania*. Pacijent je bio dva meseca hospitalizovan na Klinici za infektivne i tropske bolesti. Lečen je flukonazolom i lipozomalnim amfotericinom B i otpušten kući sa krustama.

Klinička slika, epidemiološki podaci i mikrobiološka dijagnoza su veoma važni za dijagnozu kožne lajšmanijaze.

Ključne reči: *Leishmania*, amastigot, promastigot, *Phlebotomus*, kožna lajšmanijaza

Abstract

Introduction. The most common form of leishmaniasis is cutaneous leishmaniasis. It presents with cutaneous lesions of the unprotected parts of the skin which leave scars later on. The causative agents are protozoae from the *Leishmania species*, and there are more than 20 of them. Clinical presentation and therapy depend on the type of leishmaniasis. The vectors of leishmaniasis are flies from the *Phlebotomus species*, and the source of infection is people and animals.

Case report. A patient used to work in Iraq. Due to skin lesions that persisted for three months and suspicion of cutaneous leishmaniasis, he was sent by an infectious disease specialist from General hospital, Pancevo to the Public Health Institute of Serbia - PHIS. Lesions were localized on the hands, in the form of plaques with central ulcerations. There were similar cases among his colleagues. Microscopic examination of the skin samples, *Giemza* stained, showed intracellular amastigote *Leishmania*. The patient spent two months in the Clinic for infectious and tropical diseases. He was treated with fluconazole and liposomal amphotericin B and discharged with crusts on his hands.

Clinical presentation, epidemiologic data, and microbiological diagnosis are very important for the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis.

Keywords: *Leishmania*, amastigote, promastigote, *Phlebotomus*, cutaneous leishmaniasis

Uvod

Lajšmanijaza je parazitska bolest koju prenose peščane mušice iz rodova *Phlebotomus* i *Lutzomyia*, zaražene protozoama iz roda *Leishmania*. U više od 70 zemalja širom sveta je endemska i zahvata oko 12 miliona ljudi. Postoji nekoliko kliničkih oblika lajšmanijaze: kutana/kožna (CL), mukokutana (MCL) i visceralna (VL) (kala-azar).

Klinička manifestacija infekcije zavisi od vrste *Leishmania* i imunskog odgovora domaćina. Kožna lajšmanijaza (KL) je najčešća klinička manifestacija. Postoje dva tipa: kožna lajšmanijaza Starog sveta i kožna lajšmanijaza Novog sveta.

L. tropica, *L. major*, *L. aethiophica*, *L. infantum*, *L. donovani* (Bliski istok, delovi Azije, Afrika, južna Evropa) uzročnici su kožne lajšmanijaze Starog sveta (orijentalni čir, Bagdadska ruža, alepski čir).

L. mexicana species complex i subgenus *Viannia* ili *L. brasiliensis complex* (Južna Amerika, Srednja Amerika, južni deo Severne Amerike) uzročnici su kožne lajšmanijaze Novog sveta (eng. *chiclero ulcer*, *Pian bois*, *Uta*).

Infekcija nastaje ubodom zaražene ženke muve peščara u kojima se *Leishmania* nalazi u promastigotnom obliku. Promastigoti napadaju makrofage i leukocite, koji se nalaze u koži i prelaze u amastigotni oblik. Na mestu uboda nastaju lezije. Početna lezija je mala crvena papula, koja se postepeno povećava. Tipična je centralna ulceracija. Rane se obično pojavljuju na izloženim područjima kože, posebno na licu i ekstremitetima. Vreme inkubacije između uboda zaraženog *Phlebotomusa* i razvoja lezije kreće se od dve nedelje do šest meseci. Lezije su obično bezbolne i većina zarasta ostavljajući zaostale atrofične ožiljke. Vreme zarastanja varira od dva meseca do više od godinu dana. Može doći do hronične bolesti, a postoji i rizik od širenja kod pacijenata sa imunodeficijencijom.

Na kožnu lajšmanijazu treba misliti ukoliko postoji klinička slika koja je praćena podatkom da pacijent dolazi iz endemskih krajeva, a potvrda dijagnoze se dobija na osnovu laboratorijskog ispitivanja.

Bolest uglavnom *pogađa* siromašne ljude u Africi, Aziji i Latinskoj Americi, a povezana je sa neuhranjenošću, raseljavanjem stanovništva, lošim stanovanjem, slabim imunološkim sistemom. Od 200 zemalja i teritorija koje podnose izveštaje SZO, 98 zemalja i teritorija su endemske za lajšmanijazu u 2020. godini. Ovo uključuje 71 zemlju koje su endemske za VL i CL, osam zemalja koje su endemske samo za VL i 19 zemalja koje su endemske samo za CL. Od 2013. godine, program SZO za globalnu lajšmanijazu posebno izveštava o broju novih autohtonih slučajeva, kako bi se pratili trendovi incidencije kao i broj uvezenih slučajeva.

Od septembra 2021. godine, 55 VL-endemskih zemalja (70%) i 56 CL-endemskih zemalja (63%) prijavilo je podatke Globalnom programu SZO za lajšmanijazu za 2020. godinu.

Introduction

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by sandflies from *Phlebotomus* and *Lutzomyia species*, infected by protozoae from *Leishmania species*. It's endemic in more than 70 countries worldwide and it affects 12 million people. There are several clinical presentations of leishmaniasis: cutaneous/skin (CL), mucocutaneous (MCL), and visceral (VL) (kala-azar).

Clinical manifestations of the infection depend on the species of *Leishmania* and the immunological response of the host. Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is the most common clinical manifestation. There are two types: cutaneous leishmaniasis in the Old World and cutaneous leishmaniasis in the New World.

L. tropica, *L. major*, *L. aethiophica*, *L. infantum*, *L. donovani* (the Middle East, parts of Asia, Africa, South Europe) are the causes of cutaneous leishmaniasis of the Old World (oriental ulcer, Bagdad rose, alepic ulcer).

L. mexicana species complex and subgenus *Viannia* or *L. brasiliensis complex* (South America, Middle America, south part of North America) are the causes of cutaneous leishmaniasis in the New World (eng. *chiclero ulcer*, *Pian bois*, *Uta*).

The infection is caused by the infected female sandfly bite that contains *Leishmania* in promastigote form. Promastigotes attack macrophages and leukocytes, found in the skin, and transition into amastigote form. On the bite site, the lesion is formed. The primary lesion is a small, red papula that starts its gradual growth. The central ulceration is typical. The wounds usually appear on the exposed parts of the skin, especially the face and extremities. The incubation period between the sting of the infected *Phlebotomusa* and lesion appearance varies from two weeks to six months. Lesions are usually painless and the majority heal leaving remaining atrophic scars. The healing time varies from two months to more than a year. It may evolve into a chronic disease and there is a risk of spreading in patients with immunodeficiency.

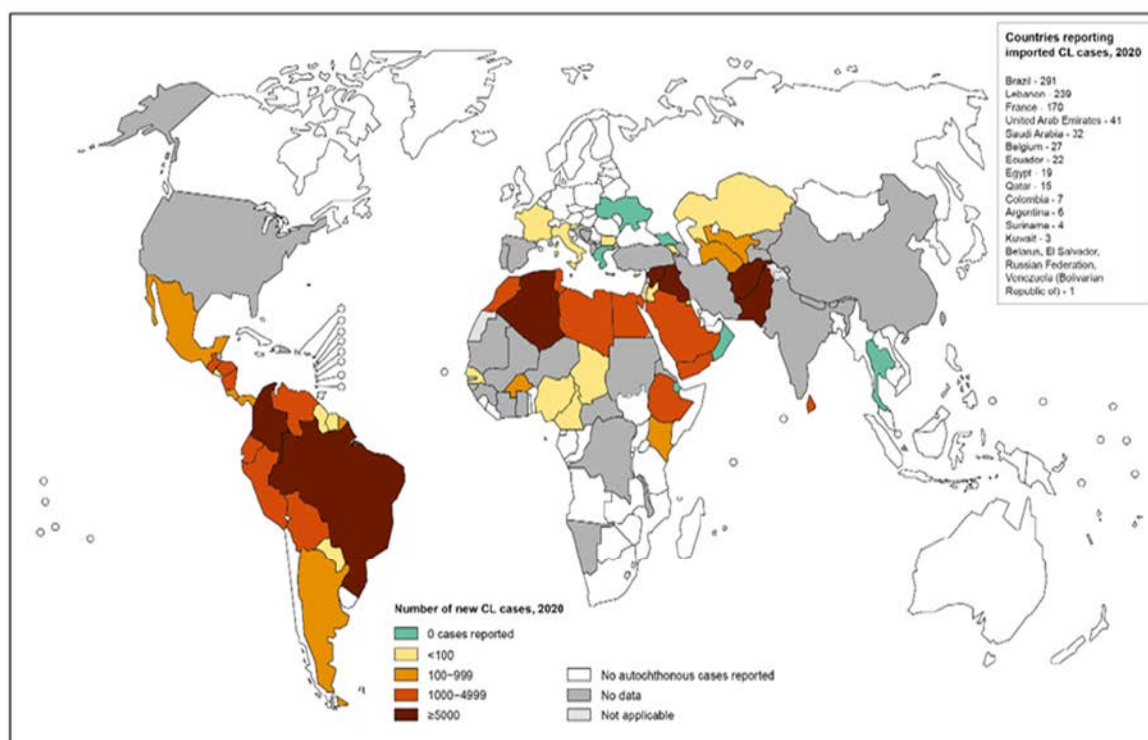
Cutaneous leishmaniasis should be considered if there is a clinical presentation followed by the patient's information about visiting endemic areas. The confirmation of the diagnosis is provided by lab exams.

The disease usually affects poor people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and it is connected to malnutrition, people migration, poor living conditions, and weak immune system. Out of 200 countries and territories that report to WHO, 98 countries and territories are endemic to leishmaniasis in 2020. This includes 71 countries endemic for VL and CL, except for the countries endemic only for VL and 19 countries endemic only for CL. Since 2013, the WHO program for global leishmaniasis gives reports on the number of new indigenous cases, so the incidence trends could be followed, as well as the number of imported cases.

Oko 87% globalnih slučajeva VL prijavljeno je iz osam zemalja: Brazil, Eritreja, Etiopija, Indija, Kenija, Somalija, Južni Sudan i Sudan. U 2020. godini, sedam zemalja je prijavilo više od 5.000 slučajeva CL: Avganistan, Alžir, Brazil, Kolumbija, Irak, Pakistan i Sirijska Arapska Republika, što zajedno čini 80% globalne prijavljene incidencije CL. U 2020. godini, globalno je prijavljeno 880 uvezenih slučajeva kožne lajšmanijaze i 99 uvezenih slučajeva visceralne lajšmanijaze. Lajšmanijaze nema na Novom Zelandu, Australiji, Južnom Pacifiku, i na Antarktiku¹.

From September 2021, 55 VL-endemic countries (70%) and 56 CL-endemic countries (63%) reported data to the Global Program of WHO for leishmaniasis for 2020. About 87% of global cases of VL were reported in eight countries: Brasil, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. In 2020, seven countries reported more than 5.000 cases of CL: Afghanistan, Algeria, Brasil, Columbia, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Syrian Arabic Republic, which together make up 80% of the global reported incidence of CL. In 2020, there were 880 imported cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis and 99 imported cases of visceral leishmaniasis. There is no leishmaniasis in New Zealand, Australia, South Pacific, and the Antarctic¹.

Status of endemicity of cutaneous leishmaniasis worldwide, 2020



Slika 1. Geografska rasprostranjenost kožne lajšmanijaze (izvor: SZO)¹

Picture 1. Geographic prevalence of cutaneous leishmaniasis (source: WHO)¹

Prikaz slučaja

Zbog sumnje na kožnu lajšmanijazu, pacijent starosti 58 godina, po nalogu infektologa Opšte bolnice Pančevo, dana 30.08.2018. god. upućen je na mikrobiološki pregled u Institut za javno zdravlje Srbije (IZJZS).

Case report

Due to the suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis, 58 years old patient was sent to the Public Health Institute of Serbia (PHIS) for microbiological examination. He was forwarded by the infectious disease specialist of Pancevo General Hospital on August 30th, 2018.

Pregledom se uočavaju kožne promene po rukama tipa plakova sa centralnim ulceracijama. Na levoj podlaktici lokalizovana potkožna oteklina, iznad koje je eritematozna papula.

On the examination, there are noticeable skin lesions on his hands, plaque-like, with central ulcerations. On the left forearm, there is a localized subcutaneous swelling, with erythematous papula above it.



Slike 2–5. Fotografije promena u različitim stadijumima lajšmanijaze kod prikazanog pacijenta.
Pictures 2–5. Lesions` photographs in different stages of leishmaniasis in the presented patient

Iz anamneze pacijenta saznali smo da je bio na privremenom radu u Iraku u periodu od 23.2. do 28.5.2018. godine. Zbog prirode posla pacijent je boravio i u seoskoj i u gradskoj sredini i bio izložen ubodima raznih insekata. Mesec i po dana po povratku iz Iraka u našu zemlju, pojavljuju se pro-

From the patient's personal history we learned that he was working in Iraq from February 23rd to May 28th, 2018. Due to the nature of his work, the patient spent his time in rural and urban areas and he was exposed to the bites of different insects. A month and a half after his return from Iraq, he

mene na koži. Negira alergije i povrede. Navodi, da je među kolegama sa kojima je radio u Iraku, bilo obolelih sa sličnim promenama na koži i da su tokom boravka u Iraku bili izloženi ubodima insekata.

Rezultati ispitivanja u IZJZS

U laboratoriji za parazitologiju uzet je veliki broj uzoraka sa promenama na koži. bris, grebamje, strugotine sa granice zdravog i bolesnog tkiva i punkcijom.

Takođe je uzet i serum pacijenta radi testiranja indirektnim hemaglutinacionim esejom *Leishmaniasis*: (IHA *Cellognost*, Dade Behring, Marburg, Germany). Napravljen je veliki broj preparata koji su fiksirani metanolom i bojeni po Gimzijevom (*Giemsa*) metodu. Mikroskopskim pregledom preparata uzoraka sa kožnih promena viđeni su brojni intracelularno smešteni amastigoti, tzv. Lajšmanijeva tela. Imajući u vidu da se mikroskopskim pregledom ne može odrediti o kojoj se vrsti lajšmanija radi, rezultat je izdat na nivou gena-*sa-Leishmania spp.*

Rezultat testa *IHA Leishmaniasis*:1:16 negativan.

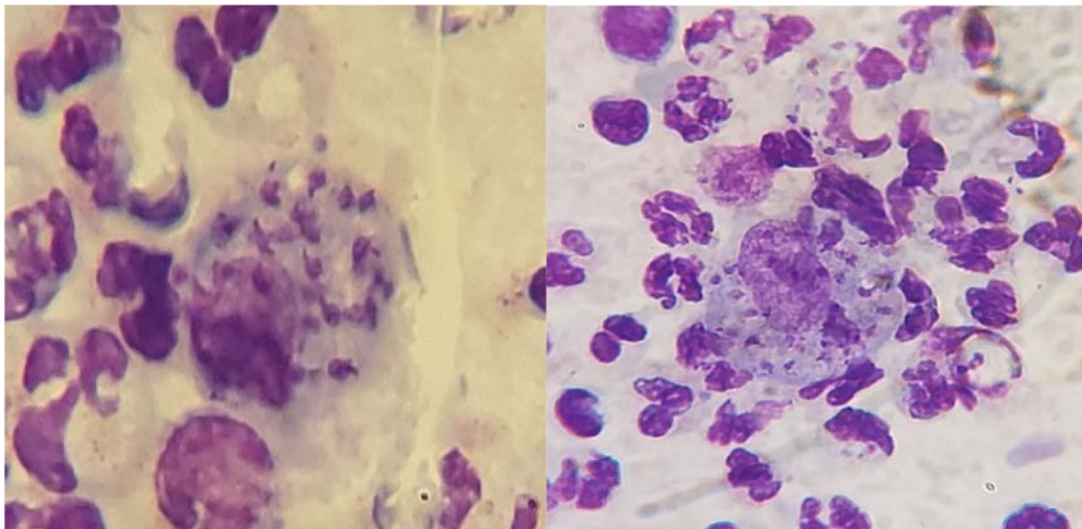
noticed skin lesions. He has no allergies or injuries. He said there were similar skin lesions in the colleagues he worked with, in Iraq. During their stay in Iraq, they were exposed to insects stings.

Examination results from PHIS

A lot of the samples from the skin lesions were taken in the parasitology lab (swab, scratching, scrapings from the edges of the healthy and diseased tissue, and puncture).

Also, the patient's serum was obtained for the sake of testing with indirect hemagglutination essay *Leishmaniasis*: (IHA *Cellognost*, Dade Behring, Marburg, Germany). A lot of preparations were made and they were fixated with methanol and *Giemsa* stained. The microscopic examination of the samples from the skin lesions showed numerous intracellular amastigotes, so called Leishmany bodies. Taking into consideration that microscopic examination cannot identify the type of leishmania, the result was produced based on the genus-*Leishmania spp.*

The test result for *IHA Leishmaniasis*:1:16 was negative.



Slika 6. Prikazani brojni amastigoti, intracelularno smešteni u makrofagima.

Picture 6. Numerous amastigotes, intracellularly placed in macrophages

Nakon potvrđene laboratorijske dijagnoze kožne lajšmanijaze, pacijent je upućen u Kliniku za infektivne i tropske bolesti Kliničkog centra Srbije radi daljeg lečenja.

Lečen je od 10.9. do 13.11.2018. godine. Tokom hospitalizacije ponovljen je test IHA *Leishmaniasis* - negativan. Brzi test na *At rK39* slabo pozitivan. Aspirat koštane srži –

After the confirmation of the lab diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis, the patient was sent to the Clinic for infectious and tropical diseases of the Clinical Center of Serbia for further treatment.

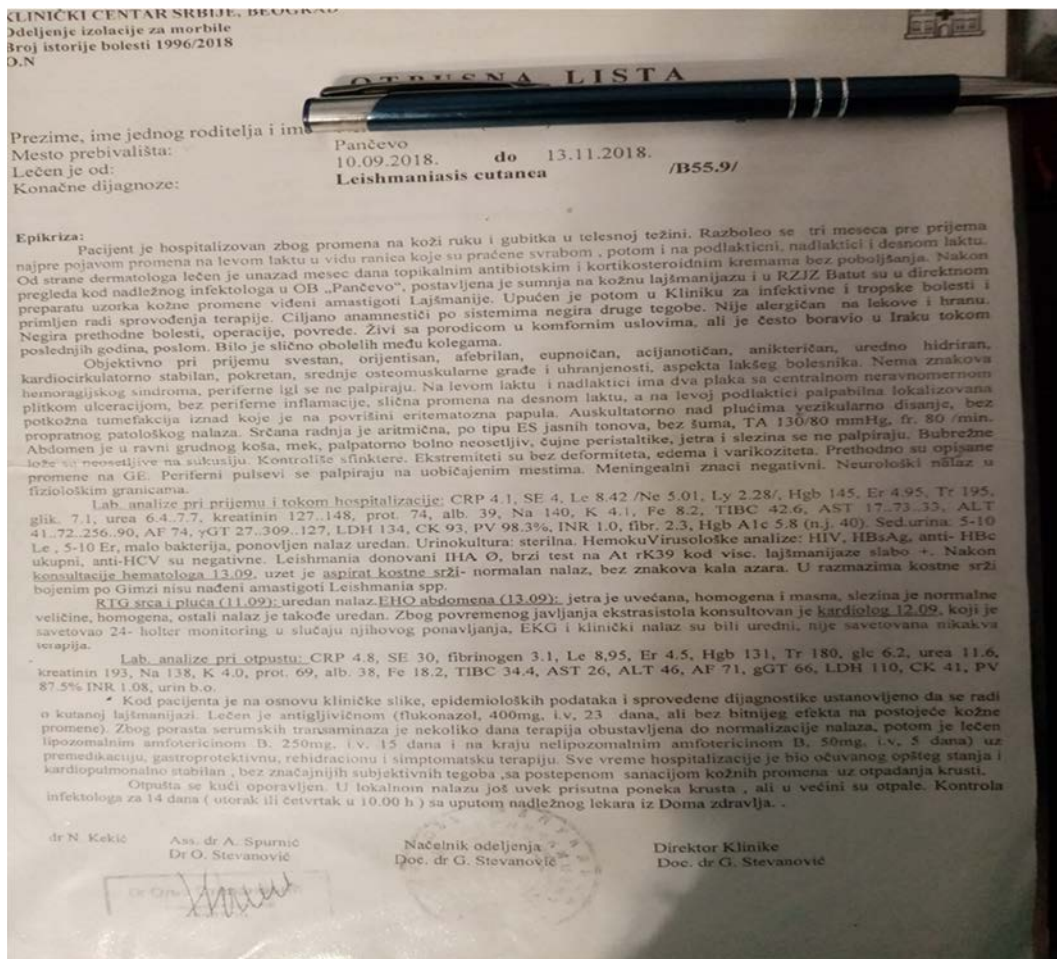
He was hospitalized from September 10th to November 13th, 2018. During his hospital stay, the IHA *Leishmaniasis*

normalan nalaz, bez znakova kala-azara. Ultrazvuk abdomena: jetra uvećana masna, slezina normalne veličine i homogenosti.. Laboratorijski nalazi na prijemu većinom u granicama normale.

Pacijent je lečen antiljivičnom terapijom Flukonazolom 400 mg i.v. 23 dana, ali bez većeg efekta na kožne promene. Zbog porasta serumskih transaminaza terapija je obustavljena do normalizacije nalaza, a potom lečen lipozomalnim amfotericinom B 250 mg i.v. 15 dana i, na kraju, nelipozomalnim amfotericinom B 500 mg i.v. 5 dana uz premedikaciju, gastroprotektivnu, rehidracionu i simptomatsku terapiju. Sve vreme hospitalizacije bio je kardiopulmonalno uravnotežen, s postepenom sanacijom kožnih promena i uz opadanje krasti. Opušten je kući oporavljen.

test was repeated and it was negative again. Fast test on *rK39 At* was slightly positive. The aspirate of the bone marrow had normal findings with no sign of kala-azar. The ultrasound of the abdomen: liver enlarged, fatty, spleen of the normal size and homogeneity. Lab work, on his admission, was mainly normal.

The patient was treated with antifungal medication fluconazole 400 mg i.v. for 23 days but without a major effect on the cutaneous lesions. Due to the rise of serum transferase, therapy was discontinued until the results were normalized, and then liposomal amphotericin B 250 mg i.v. was introduced and continued for 15 days. Finally, non-liposomal amphotericin B 500 mg i.v. was given for 5 days with premedication, gastroprotection, rehydration, and symptomatic therapy. During the hospitalization, he was cardiopulmonary stable, with gradual healing of the cutaneous lesions and shedding of the crusts. He was discharged from the hospital and fully recovered.



Slika 7. Otpusna lista pacijenta.
Picture 7. Patient's discharge papers

Diskusija

Lajšmanijazu izazivaju vektorom prenosive protozoe iz roda *Leishmania*. Nakon što vektor (*Phlebotomus*, *Litzomyia*) ubaci infektivne promastigote, dalji tok infekcije zavisi kako od parazita, tako i od *T*-ćelijskog odgovora domaćina. *CD4+* *T*- limfociti izlučuju interferon kao odgovor na lajšmanin, antigen lajšmanija. Kod kutane lajšmanijaze imunski odgovor dovodi do limfocitne infiltracije, koja teži da lokalizuje infekciju i smanji broj parazita. Kod nekih inficiranih osoba se razvija difuzna kožna lajšmanijaza. Pretpostavlja se da te osobe imaju selektivne supresore *T*- limfocite, te izostaje limfocitna infiltracija.

Konačna dijagnoza kožne lajšmanijaze postavlja se nalazom amastigota, tzv. *Lajšmanijeva tela*, direktno u uzorku bolesničkog materijala (skarifikat, strugotina, punktat, biopsija promene na koži) ili flagelarnih oblika nakon kultivacije. Za kultivisanje se koristi *NNN* podloga (*Novy-MacNeal-Nicolle*), gde se u tačnoj fazi podloge razvijaju promastigoti. Razvoj molekularnih metoda, kao što su *PCR*, *qPCR* i dr. omogućio je dijagnostiku infekcija lajšmaniom do nivoa vrste. Kožni test na lajšmanin (*Montenegro test*) nije specifičan za vrstu i ima velika ograničenja, tako da ga treba oprezno tumačiti. Serološki testovi nemaju značaj za dijagnostiku kožne lajšmanijaze i koriste se u epidemiološke svrhe. U većini zemalja brojevi incidencije su verovatno potcenjeni, jer se slučajevi ne prepoznaju i prijavljivanje ove bolesti nije obavezno. Arapsko proleće i ratni sukobi koji su usledili, pokrenuli su talas masovnih migracija iz regiona Afrike i Azije ka Evropi.

Sirijski sukob je doveo do dramatičnog porasta kožne lajšmanijaze Starog sveta, izazvanog kontinuiranim raseljavanjem stanovništva, poremećenim programima kontrole, lošim skloništima i sanitarnim uslovima².

Tako je u istraživanju *Andreas K Lindnera* sa sar. na osnovu retrospektivne studije koja je sprovedena na Institutu za tropsku medicinu i međunarodno zdravlje u Berlinu, pregledana evidencija svih izbeglica iz Sirije, lečenih od CL u periodu od januara 2015. do marta 2020. godine.

Lečeno je 20 izbeglica iz Sirije. Sedamnaest izbeglica (85%) imalo je složene lezije, uglavnom zbog neuspeha prethodne terapije ili lokalizacije na licu. Uočeno je dugo trajanje bolesti (50% > 1 godine), izraženi ožiljci na licu (20%), recidivi (20%) ili pogoršanje postojećih lezija (20%)².

U prikazu slučaja *Corentine V* i sar. opisano je stanje 67-godišnjeg muškarca koji je imao upalne lezije na koži glave i lica u poslednjih 7 godina.

Lezije su prvo pogrešno shvaćene kao kožna sarkoidoza, mikobakterijska infekcija i kožni limfom. Konačno, dijagnoza je postavljena *RT-PCR* analizom na uzorku *punch*-biopsije, koji je bio pozitivan na *Leishmania infantum*³.

Trenutno ne postoji dostupna vakcina za ovu infekciju. Pentavalentni antimonijali su terapijski izbor prve linije, dok

Discussion

Leishmaniasis is caused by the vector transmitted protozoae from *Leishmania species*. After the vector (*Phlebotomus*, *Litzomyia*) inserts the infective promastigotes, the future course of the infection depends on the parasite, as well as the *T*-cell response of the host. The *CD4+* *T*- lymphocytes secrete interferon, as a response to leishmanin, leishmania antigen. In cutaneous leishmaniasis, immune response leads to lymphocyte infiltration, which tends to localize the infection and lower the number of parasites. Diffuse cutaneous leishmaniasis develops in some infected persons. It is believed, that these persons have got selective suppressor *T*- lymphocytes, so there is no lymphocyte infiltration.

The final diagnosis of the cutaneous leishmaniasis is made based on the findings of amastigotes, so-called *Leishmany bodies*, directly in the patient's sample (scarificat, scrapes, punctate, a biopsy of the skin lesion) or flagellar forms after cultivation. The *NNN* (*Novy-MacNeal-Nicolle*) substrate is used for cultivation. In the liquid phase of the substrate, promastigotes develop. The development of molecular methods, such as *PCR*, *qPCR*, and others enabled the diagnosing of *Leishmania* infection up to the level of species. Leishmanin skin test (*Montenegro test*) isn't species-specific and it has a lot of limitations, so it should be interpreted with great caution. Serological tests are of no importance for the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis and are used for epidemiological purposes. In the majority of countries, incidence numbers are probably underrated because some cases are unrecognized and disease reporting is not compulsory. The Arabian spring and war conflicts that followed initiated a wave of massive migrations from African regions and Asia to Europe.

Syrian conflict led to the dramatic rise of cutaneous leishmaniasis in the Old World, caused by the continuous migration of people, disrupted control programs, bad hide-aways, and sanitary conditions².

The retrospective study by *Andreas K Lindner* et al., performed at the Institute of tropical medicine and international health in Berlin, reviewed the records of all refugees from Syria, treated for CL, from January 2015 to March 2020.

Twenty refugees from Syria were treated. Seventeen refugees (85%) had complex lesions, mainly due to the previous unsuccessful therapy or the face localization of the lesions. Long duration of the disease was noticed (50% > 1 year), prominent face scars (20%), recidives (20%), or deterioration of the existing lesions (20%)².

In the case report by *Corentine V* et al., the condition of the 67-year-old male was described. He had inflammatory lesions on the head and face skin for the last seven years.

Lesions were wrongly understood, at first, as cutaneous sarcoidosis, micro bacterial infection, and cutaneous lymphoma. Finally, a diagnosis was confirmed using *RT-PCR*

su amfotericin B, pentamidin, miltefozin i paromomicin alternativni lekovi. S druge strane, povećana rezistencija i toksičnost sadašnjih terapija su značajni problemi⁴.

U novije vreme, pomenuti lekovi se kombinuju sa ketoconazolom i itraconazolom. Oblici difuzne kožne lajšmanijaze slabo reaguju na lečenje.

Diferencijalno-dijagnostički, sa kožnom lajšmanijazom mogu se razmatrati različita stanja i bolesti kao što su ujed insekata, lepra, aktinomikoza, bazocelularni karcinom, sporotrihoza, kožni antraks, *lupus vulgaris* itd.

U našem slučaju, na osnovu kliničke slike, epidemioloških podataka i laboratorijske analize uzoraka promena na koži, potvrđena je dijagnoza kožne lajšmanijaze.

U Iraku, u kojem je privremeno boravio naš pacijent, najčešći uzročnici kožne lajšmanijaze su *L. major* kao uzročnik tzv *vlažnih promena* i *L. tropica* kao uzročnik tzv *suvih promena*, koja je češće prisutna u gradskoj sredini. Budući da je naš pacijent boravio i u seoskoj i u gradskoj sredini zbog prirode posla, da su kožne promene bile u različitim stadijumima, a u nedostatku molekularne dijagnostike, u laboratorijskom nalazu smo se izjasnili na nivou genusa - *Leishmania spp*.

Tokom hospitalizacije, na Infektivnoj klinici urađena je i biopsija koštane srži i ponovljena serološka dijagnostika, kako bi se isključila mogućnost infekcije *L. infantum donovani*. Pored visceralne forme, može da izazove i kožnu formu bolesti i prisutna je u Iraku. Primenom u terapiji lipozomalnog i nelipozomalnog Amfotericina B postignut je dobar terapijski odgovor i pacijent je otpušten kući oporavljen, uz regresiju kožnih promena.

Zaključak

Kožna lajšmanijaza je najčešća klinička manifestacija lajšmanijaze koja izaziva lezije kože i ulceracije na izloženim delovima tela. Da bi se posumnjalo, pored kliničke slike veoma je važna iscrpna anamneza sa posebnim osvrtom na boravak u endemskim krajevima za kožnu lajšmanijazu. Stoga kod ljudi sa hroničnim (nezarastajućim) lezijama kože, koji su bili u područjima gde je endemska lajšmanijaza, kliničari, pored drugih diferencijalnih dijagnoza, treba da posumnjaju i na kožnu lajšmaniozu.

Pregled direktnog mikroskopskog preparata uzoraka promena na koži, bojen po metodu *Giemsa* i dalje je nezamenljiv metod u dijagnostici kožne lajšmanijaze do nivoa genusa, ali je za dijagnostiku do nivoa vrste potrebna molekularna dijagnostika. Većina vrsta *Leishmania* je sekvencionirana otkrivajući sveukupnu konzervaciju reda gena, strukture hromozoma i diskretnih razlika u sadržaju gena. Ova nedavna istraživanja pomogla su u razvoju prikladnijih uređaja i platformi za brzu molekularnu dijagnostiku. Međutim, uprkos tehnološkom razvoju, postoji ogromna razlika u korišćenju komercijalno dostupne i standardizovane mole-

analysis on the sample of *punch*-biopsy, which was positive for *Leishmania infantum*³.

There is still no available vaccine for this infection. Pentavalent antimonials are the first line therapeutics, while amphotericin B, pentamidine, miltefosine, and paromomycin are alternative medications. On the other hand, increased resistance and toxicity of the current therapies are significant problems⁴.

In the modern days, before mentioned medications are combined with ketoconazole and itraconazole. Diffuse cutaneous forms of leishmaniasis are mostly resistant to treatment.

Different health issues and diseases may be taken into consideration as a differential diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis, such as insect bites, lepra, actinomycosis, basocellular carcinoma, sporotrichosis, cutaneous anthrax, *lupus vulgaris*, etc.

In our case, the diagnosis of the cutaneous leishmaniasis was confirmed based on the clinical presentation, epidemiological data, and lab analysis of cutaneous lesions.

In Iraq, where our patient stayed for a while, the most common causes of cutaneous leishmaniasis are *L. Major*; the cause of so-called *moist lesions*, and *L. tropica* causing so-called *dry lesions*, more common in urban areas. Since our patient split his time between rural and urban areas, due to the nature of his work, his skin lesions were in different stages. Due to the lack of molecular diagnostics, in our lab work, we made the diagnosis on the genus level - *Leishmania spp*.

During hospitalization at the Clinic for Infectious diseases, a biopsy of the bone marrow was performed and the serological tests were repeated, in order to exclude the possibility of the infection of *L. infantum donovani*. Besides visceral form, it may cause the cutaneous form of the disease, as well, and it is found in Iraq. Using liposomal and non-liposomal amphotericin B in the treatment course we got a good therapeutic response and the patient was discharged from the hospital, as fully recovered, with the regression of skin lesions.

Conclusion

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common clinical presentation of leishmaniasis, causing skin lesions and ulcerations on the exposed parts of the body. To suspect it, besides clinical presentation, it's very important to take a detailed personal history from the patient, emphasizing his stay in the endemic areas for cutaneous leishmaniasis. Therefore, in people with chronic (non-healing) skin lesions, who visited countries with endemic leishmaniasis, clinicians should consider cutaneous leishmaniasis, among other differential diagnoses.

Direct microscopic inspection of the skin lesion sample, *Giemsa* stained, is still an irreplaceable method in diagnos-

kularne dijagnostike, za razliku od *in-house* kompleta. Do sada je razvijeno nekoliko molekularnih metoda za detekciju, identifikaciju, kvantifikaciju i filogenetičku analizu⁵.

Razvijene su različite platforme *PCR*, kao i multilokusna enzimaska elektroforeza (*MLEE*). Poslednjih godina razvijen je i multipleks *real time PCR*. Ovaj test je pokazao visoku senzitivnost u odnosu na preparat bojen metodom po *Giemsa* i zahteva manji trud. Može otkriti čak jedan promastigot⁴. Kožna lajšmanijaza može postojati kod građana Republike Srbije, koji su boravili na privremenom radu u endemskom području, Zapaža se i kod migranata jer većina dolazi iz endemskih područja. Prisutnost brojne migrantske populacije u Srbiji, koja većinom dolazi iz endemskih zemalja za kožnu lajšmanijazu, kao mogućeg rezervoara infekcije, uz postojanje bioloških vektora kao prenosioca bolesti, predstavlja realnu opasnost od uspostavljanja autohtone transmisije uzročnika kožne lajšmanijaze u Srbiji.

Zato je veoma važno sprovođenje mera prevencije i zaštite zdravlja, gde posebno mesto zauzima nadzor nad populacijom migranata, ali i domicijalnim stanovništvom, adekvatna dijagnostika, lečenje i prijavljivanje bolesti, kao i kontrola vektora-muva peščara kao prenosioca ove bolesti.

NB. Rad je prikazan na XI kongresu lekara opšte medicine Srbije (Zlatibor, 23.9.–26.9.2021)

ing cutaneous leishmaniasis up to the level of the genus but if we want to diagnose to the level of the species we need to use molecular diagnostics. Most species of *Leishmania* are sequestered, discovering overall conservation of the gene order, chromosome structure, and discrete differences in gene content. These recent researches helped in developing more adequate devices and platforms for fast molecular diagnosis. But despite technological development, there is a huge difference in using commercially available and standardized molecular diagnostics, unlike *in-house* kits. There are several developed molecular methods, nowadays, for the detection, identification, quantification, and phylogenetic analysis⁵.

Different *PCR* platforms are developed, as well as, multilocus enzyme electrophoresis (*MLEE*). In recent years, multicomplex *real time PCR* was developed, as well. This test showed high sensitivity, compared to samples *Giemsa* stained and it takes less effort. It may find a single promastigote⁶. Cutaneous leishmaniasis might be found in the residents of the Republic of Serbia who visited for a while endemic areas. It can be found in immigrants because the majority of them come from the endemic parts of the world. The presence of the numerous migrant population in Serbia, mostly coming from the endemic countries for cutaneous leishmaniasis, as a possible reservoir of the infection, with the presence of the biological vectors for the disease transmission, represents a real danger from establishing idigenous transmission of the causes of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Serbia.

Therefore, it's very important to practice preventive measures and health protection with the emphasis on migrant population surveillance but also on our people, adequate diagnostics, treatment, and disease reporting, as well as, control of the vectors-sandflies, as the transmitters of the disease.

NB. The paper was presented at the XI Congress of the general practitioners of Serbia (Zlatibor, 23.9.–26.9.2021)

Reference/ Literatura

1. Leishmaniasis, in *Neglected tropical diseases*, The Global Health Observatory, World Health Organization, 2022; <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/gho-ntd-leishmaniasis> (pristupljeno 16.3.2022)
2. Lindner AK, Richter J, Gertler M, Nikolaus M, Equihua Martinez G, Müller K, Harms G. *Cutaneous leishmaniasis in refugees from Syria: complex cases in Berlin 2015-2020*. *J Travel Med*. 2020 Nov 9;27(7):taaa161. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taaa161. PMID: 33057714.
3. Vanlier C, Marot L, Laranaga E, D'abadie P, Yombi JC, Yildiz H, Baeck M. *A case report of cutaneous leishmaniasis: a misleading clinical presentation*. *Infection*. 2021 Feb;49(1):177-180. doi: 10.1007/s15010-020-01517-1. Epub 2020 Sep 2. PMID: 32876896.
4. Ardic N, Ardic AF, Gunel Z. *Leishmaniasis during the increased Syrian refugee traffic*. *Glob J Infect Dis Clin Res* 2018;4(1):013-019. DOI: 10.17352/2455-5363.000020
5. Sundar S, Singh OP. *Molecular Diagnosis of Visceral Leishmaniasis*. *Mol Diagn Ther*. 2018 Aug;22(4):443-457. doi: 10.1007/s40291-018-0343-y. PMID: 29922885; PMCID: PMC6301112.

Primljen - Received - 30.01.2022.

Ispravljen - Corrected - 24.03.2022.

Prihvaćen - Accepted - 28.03.2022.