

COMPARISON BETWEEN MOLECULAR AND PARASITOLOGICAL TEST IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF CANINE LEISHMANIASIS

(COMPARAÇÃO ENTRE TESTE MOLECULAR E PARASITOLÓGICO NO DIAGNÓSTICO DA
LEISHMANIOSE CANINA)

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The infection by *Leishmania* spp. in dogs can be diagnosed by serological, parasitological and molecular tests. Among these, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a technique that detects the DNA of the above parasite. There is also the parasitological examination, which consists of reading slides containing material from the lymphoid organs, to investigate the presence of amastigotes of this parasite. The comparison of the two diagnosis methods to detect infection by *Leishmania* spp. was the scope of this study. A total of 66 dogs were used, of which 30 females and 36 males, 12 of determined breed and 54 mongrel dogs. The bone marrow material was collected from the iliac crests of each dog. For molecular analysis, the puncture samples were placed in microtubes and frozen at -20°C for further DNA extraction. Subsequently, the real-time PCR was performed for *Leishmania chagasi*. Cytological impressions on microscope slides (imprint) were made and stained by the quick Panoptic technique for direct parasite examination. The McNemar test showed positive results for 96.97% (64/66) and 59.09% (39/66) of the samples for the PCR of the bone marrow and parasitological method, respectively. Significant difference was observed between the two tests. The results showed that the parasitological test had a higher incidence of false negative results in relation to the molecular.

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