

**COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF DIRECT PARASITOLOGICAL TESTS OF LYMPH
NODES AND BONE MARROW ON THE EFFICACY OF CANINE LEISHMANIASIS
DIAGNOSIS**

*(AVALIAÇÃO COMPARATIVA DE EXAMES PARASITOLÓGICOS DIRETOS DE LINFONODOS E
DE MEDULAS ÓSSEAS NA EFICÁCIA DIAGNÓSTICA DA LEISHMANIOSE CANINA)*

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Leishmaniasis is a zoonotic disease of great importance for public health. The diagnosis can be performed by immunological, molecular and parasitological methods. The latter allow identifying amastigotes of the parasite from smears of the lymphoid organs. The objective of this study was to compare the diagnosis accuracy of cytological examination of lymph nodes and bone marrow of canines as the detection method of *Leishmania* spp. A total of 33 dogs, of which 51.52% (17/33) female and 48.48% (16/33) male while 24.24% (8/33) were of defined breed and 75.76% (25/33) mongrel dogs, were used. Blades aspiration biopsies were prepared and stained with the Quick Panoptic dye. These were analyzed under light microscopy using oil immersion at 100X magnification. Amastigotes of *Leishmania* spp were observed in 93.94% (31/33) of the lymph nodes samples and in 72.73% (24/33) of the bone marrow samples. Statistical analysis was performed using the McNemar test to compare two dependent proportions. The parasitological test results were significantly different when comparing the lymph nodes with the bone marrow ($p < 0.05$) samples. The higher occurrence of amastigotes of *Leishmania* spp. in the samples from the lymph nodes shows that puncture of lymph nodes is a reliable method of diagnosis and minimally invasive.

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