

Some histopathological features of cutaneous leishmaniasis- in Iraqi patients

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Abstract : Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a global problem health in the world and Iraq. The present study was conducted to evaluate the clinical and histopathological features of cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) in the skins of Iraqi patients that may help in the diagnosis of CL rather than the presence of Leishman-Donovan (LD) bodies in the infected human skin. Thirty-five biopsies were collected from individuals infected with CL during the period from October 2013 to April 2014. The clinical diagnosis was done and histopathological features of CL lesions were recorded. Skin biopsies were taken from the edges of the lesions and then fixed in 10% formalin, stained with hematoxyline and eosin stain and the histopathological findings were recorded and the results were analysed. The amastigotes of both *Leishmania tropica* and *L. major* were found in 88.57% of patients (62.85% males and 37.14% females). Other histological features that also help in the diagnosis of CL (even in the absence of LD bodies) were hyperkeratosis (23.07%), parakeratosis (19.23%), acanthosis (7.69%), pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia (10.25%), atrophy (12.82%), ulcer (17.94%) and crust (8.97%). In contrast, dermal inflammatory infiltrate of histocytes with a mixture of lymphocytes, macrophages, plasma cells, giant cells and occasional eosinophils, neutrophils and mononuclear cells infiltrating the dermis were found with intra- and extra-cellular amastigotes. Other dermal reactions were a granulomatous inflammation and necrosis. This study suggests that the use of histopathological features of cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) in the skin may help in the diagnosis of CL rather than the presence of Leishman-Donovan (LD) bodies in the infected human skin.

Key words : Cutaneous leishmaniasis, Skin, Ulcer, Biopsy, Histopathological changes.

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