COMENTÁRIOS: O quadro relatado sugere que houve uma complicação decorrente de resposta inflamatória da lesão, não se caracterizando como relacionado à droga. O início de tratamento de lesões mucosas com extensão para laringe deve ser feito em ambiente hospitalar pelo risco de obstrução.

(6F)

EFFECTS OF A PURIFIED SUBSTANCE FROM *PHYSALIS SP.* ON THE VIABILITY OF *LEISHMANIA* AND ON IN VITRO INFECTION. M.B.P. Soares, L.A. Santos, M.C. Bellintani, Y.M. Ribeiro, T.Tomassini, R.R. Santos. Laboratório de Imunofarmacologia – Centro de Pesquisas Gonçalo Moniz – FIOCRUZ/BA; *Laboratório de Química de Produtos Naturais - FarManguinhos, FIOCRUZ/RJ

Leishmaniasis is a worldwide spread disease and a major health problem in Brazil. Pentimonial drugs used in the conventional treatment are toxic, causing a variety of side effects. Therefore, the finding of new drugs for treatment of leishmaniasis with low toxicity is of great interest. Extracts from *Physalis* spp. have been used in the popular medicine. Using an *in vitro* assay, we have investigated the potential effects of a purified substance from *Physalis* spp, on the viability of promastigotes of *Leishmania amazonensis*. YMRII3 showed potent anti-leishmanial activity, as compared to untreated and to amphoterycin B-treated controls. Similar results were obtained in cultures of promastigotes of *L. major*. To investigate the effects of this substance in amastigote forms, we treated *L. amazonensis* - infected peritoneal macrophages with various doses of YMRII3 lead to a reduction of 100% in the number of infected macrophages and in the number of parasites after 48 hours of infection. Similar results were obtained with *L.amazonensis* infection of J774 macrophage cell line. The clearance of parasites in macrophage cultures was observed despite the suppressive activity of YMRII3 in macrophage activation. Treatment of LPS-stimulated macrophages with YMRII3 caused a dose-dependent reduction of nitric oxide, TNF-γ, and IL-6 production.To rule out a toxic effect of the preparation, we tested the viability of peritoneal macrophages incubated with different concentrations of the substances. YMRII3 showed toxicity only at concentrations higher than 20μg/ml but not at 2 or 0,2μg/ml, where it showed anti-leishmanial activity. The *in vivo* effects of this substance in experimental leishmania infection as well as any possible toxic effects are currently under investigation.