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Resumo 79

Isolation and classification of *Trypanosoma cruzi* TcI strain among stocks from chronic chagasic patients in ambulatory care at Instituto Nacional de Infectologia Evandro Chagas (Fiocruz, Brazil)

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Introduction: *Trypanosoma cruzi* is the etiologic agent of the Chagas disease in humans, also circulating among domestic and wild animals throughout the Latin America countries. This species displays high genetic variability, and at present have been recognized seven main genotypes (TcI-TcVI and Tcbat). **Methods:** Nine isolates were obtained by hemoculture from chronic Chagas' disease patients under ambulatory care at Instituto Nacional de Infectologia Evandro Chagas (INI, Fiocruz). These patients proceeded from five Brazilian States (MG, PE, PB, BA, RS). After the morphological identification of the isolates as *T. cruzi*, they were analyzed by isoenzymes (GPI, PGM, ME, MDH), amplified products of kDNA minicircles and non-transcribed intergenic region of the mini-exon gene. One isolate was also analyzed by sequencing of a polymorphic *locus* of the TcSC5D gene. **Results:** Six isolates were identified as TcII, two as TcVI and only one as TcI. The latter was from an asymptomatic patient from Paraíba. **Conclusions:** We report the finding of the second case from chronic Chagas' disease by TcI in the State of Paraíba. TcII is the most common etiological agent of human chronic Chagas disease in Brazil, but there are rare reports of TcI human chronic infections, excepting in the Brazilian Amazon. Genetic typing of *T. cruzi* isolates is important also regarding possible correlations between the parasite genotype and the host responses to therapeutic drugs. This research was approved by Fiocruz Ethical Committee # 0050.0.009.000-05.

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