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.

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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.