

Epidemiological profile of cutaneous leishmaniasis: Retrospective analysis of 7444 cases reported from 1999 to 2005 at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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Abstract

This retrospective study was aimed to describe the trend of the cases and to determine the annual incidence rate of cutaneous leishmaniasis from 1999 to 2005 in the city of Ouagadougou. To achieve these objectives, a retrospective study was conducted. Data collection was conducted from January 1999 to December 2005. In total, 7444 cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis were recorded with an annual average of 1063.30 ± 270.8 cases. The sex ratio M/F was 0.9. The average age was 22.8 ± 13.5 years. Patients more than 15 year-old accounted for 72.5%. A decrease in the cases of the disease was noted during the months of March, April, May, June, and December. The peak was recorded during the months of September and October. Over 7 years, the average incidence rate was $0.1\% \pm 0.04$ but does not reflect the importance of this pathology. Thus, a prospective study was recommended.

Introduction

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by protozoan parasites of the *Leishmania* genus, transmitted to man by the bite of an insect, known as sand-fly [1]. The disease has different clinical forms, ranging from a skin ulcer, which can heal spontaneously, to the most severe form of leishmaniasis, the visceral form, which can lead to patient's death when untreated [2]. The exposed population is 350 million people and the global prevalence is 12 million cases [2]. Several forms of the disease have been reported in the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas [2-5]. Due to its frequency and lethality, mainly in untreated patients, it is currently among the six endemic diseases considered as priorities worldwide [2]. In Burkina Faso, the cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is an important public health problem. The