

Letters to the Editor

Heat treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis

From Dr Eduardo Missoni

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Sir, The use of heat in the treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis is well known (Manson-Bahr 1982), but its application is often a difficult practice. The proper daily use of hot water applications at home (Biagi 1979) would not be carried out for more than a few days.

In the small hospital at Waslala, Nicaragua, where I worked until May 1983, I found a few "heat-pads" to be used in the thermotherapy of articular pain. I decided to try to use them in the treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis, in cases with only one localization.

These pads developed a temperature which could be regulated between 40 and 55° C; they were easy to use; their only limitation is that they need electricity.

Using one or two 12-hour applications, I obtained interesting even if not quantifiable results.

At least, I found a new, useful, cheap, and effective application for unused and forgotten "heat-pads" coming from who knows what kind of donation.

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REFERENCES

- Biagi F** (1979) *Enfermedades Parasitarias*. Mexico
Manson-Bahr P E C (1982) *Manson's Tropical Diseases*, 18th edn. Bailliere, London; p 113
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