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ANA PAULA FORTES DOS SANTOS

**EFEITO DA PRÓPOLIS BRASILEIRA EM CÉLULAS
MONONUCLEARES DO SANGUE PERIFÉRICO HUMANO
NA LEISHMANIOSE**

Londrina
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Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Patologia Experimental da Universidade Estadual de Londrina como requisito parcial para a obtenção do título de Mestre em Patologia Experimental.

Orientadora: Prof^a. Dr^a. Ivete Conchon Costa.

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BANCA EXAMINADORA

Orientadora: Prof^a. Dr^a. Ivete Conchon Costa
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

Prof^a. Dr^a. Carolina Panis
Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná -
UNIOESTE

Prof^a. Dr^a. Vera Lúcia Hideko Tatakihara
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

Londrina, 11 de junho de 2015.

“E tudo quanto fizerdes, fazei-o de coração, como ao Senhor, e não aos homens, sabendo que do Senhor recebereis como recompensa a herança;”

Colossenses 3:23,24

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RESUMO

A Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana (LTA) causada por protozoários do gênero *Leishmania* é caracterizada pelo surgimento de lesões que podem se apresentar nas formas clínicas cutânea, cutânea difusa e mucocutânea. Essas manifestações clínicas são dependentes da interação entre as espécies do parasito envolvido, bem como a resposta imune apresentada pelo hospedeiro. Em humanos, a resposta imune à infecção por *Leishmania* não é tão bem caracterizada como na resposta em camundongos, em virtude do envolvimento de citocinas, de moléculas co-estimulatórias, assim como da saliva do flebotomíneo, dificultando o entendimento de como ocorre a resposta imunológica por parte do hospedeiro. No entanto, os estudos sugerem que em todas as formas clínicas da LTA, a resposta imune é dependente de células T e, de maneira geral, se aceita que a diferença entre resistência e susceptibilidade à infecção por *Leishmania* esteja relacionada com o predomínio da resposta celular Th1 e Th2 respectivamente. Os medicamentos disponíveis para o tratamento da LTA apresentam toxicidade elevada, longo período de tratamento, aliado a relatos de pacientes que desenvolvem resistência a tais terapias, estes fatores tem promovido a busca por alternativas terapêuticas. Estudos têm demonstrado que a própolis apresenta grande potencial para o auxílio no tratamento da leishmaniose, devido à suas propriedades anti-inflamatória, imunomoduladora, antiparasitária e de reparo tecidual. Este trabalho teve como objetivo analisar, *in vitro*, a atividade biológica do extrato de própolis brasileira em células mononucleares do sangue periférico (PBMC) humano de pacientes com leishmaniose e doadores saudáveis. Células mononucleares do sangue periférico de pacientes e indivíduos saudáveis foram cultivadas na presença ou ausência desses compostos com ou sem infecção com *L. braziliensis*. O sobrenadante e o soro de pacientes e doadores saudáveis foram utilizados para dosagem de óxido nítrico e citocinas. As células aderentes tratadas com própolis foram utilizadas para marcação com imunocitoquímica. Foi demonstrado que a própolis estimula a produção de citocinas pró-inflamatórias em células de pacientes com leishmaniose sendo potencial regulador na imunossupressão induzida por *Leishmania braziliensis*

Palavras-chave: Imunomodulação. Alternativas terapêuticas. Citocinas. Leishmaniose. *Leishmania*.

SANTOS, Ana Paula Fortes dos. **Effect of brazilian propolis on human peripheral blood mononuclear cells in leishmaniasis**. 2015. 51p. Dissertation (Master in Experimental Pathology) - State University of Londrina, Londrina, 2015.

ABSTRACT

The American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL) caused by protozoa of the genus *Leishmania* is characterized by the appearance of lesions that can appear in the clinical forms: cutaneous, diffuse cutaneous and mucocutaneous. These clinical manifestations are dependent on the interaction between the species of parasite involved and the immune response provided by the host. In humans, the immune response to *Leishmania* infection is not as well characterized as the response in mice, because of the involvement of cytokines, co-stimulatory molecules, as well as sandfly saliva, hampering the understanding of how the immune response is by the host. However, studies suggest that in all clinical forms of ACL, the immune response is T cell-dependent and, in general, it is accepted that the difference between resistance and susceptibility to *Leishmania* infection is related to the cellular response predominance Th1 and Th2, respectively. Available drugs for the treatment of ACL show high toxicity, prolonged periods of treatment, along with reports of patients developing resistance to such therapies, these factors have promoted the search for alternative treatment. Studies have shown that the propolis resin produced by bees, has great potential for the development of new drugs due to their anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-parasitic and tissue repair. This study aimed to analyze, *in vitro*, the biological activity of extract of Brazilian propolis in mononuclear cells from peripheral blood (PBMC) of patients with leishmaniasis and healthy donors. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from patients and healthy individuals were cultured in the presence or absence of these compounds with or without infection with *L. braziliensis*. The supernatant and serum from patients and healthy donors were used for measurement of nitric oxide and cytokines. The adherent cells were treated with propolis used for labeling with immunocytochemistry. Propolis has been shown to stimulate the production of proinflammatory cytokines in cell leishmaniasis patients with potential regulator in *Leishmania braziliensis* immunosuppression.

Keywords: Immunomodulation. Therapeutic alternatives. Cytokines. Leishmaniasis. *Leishmania*.

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P <0.05 compared with the healthy control and # PBMC from ACL-patients infected with *L. braziliensis*. (One way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's test)41

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

Células NK	Células natural killer
Células Th1	Células T helper tipo 1
Células Th2	Células T helper tipo 2
Células Treg	Células T reguladoras
CON-A	Concanavalina-A
cNOS	Óxido nítrico sintase constitutiva
eNOS	Óxido nítrico sintase endotelial
IL	Interleucina
IL- 4	Interleucina-4
IL-10	Interleucina-10
IL-12	Interleucina-12
IL-1 β	Interleucina-1 β
IL-6	Interleucina-6
IFN- γ	Interferon-gama
iNOS	Óxido nítrico sintase induzível
LC	Leishmaniose cutânea
LCD	Leishmaniose cutânea difusa
LM	Leishmaniose mucosa
L-NMMA	Ng-Monometil-L-Arginina
LPS	Lipopolissacarídeo
LT	Leishmaniose Tegumentar
LTA	Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana
NADPH	Nicotinamida adenina dinucleotídeo fosfato
NF κ B	Fator nuclear κ B
nNOS	Óxido nítrico sintase neuronal
NO	Óxido nítrico
NOS	Oxido nítrico sintase
PBMC	Células mononucleadas do sangue periférico
TGF- β	Fator de Transformação do Crescimento – β
TLR-2	Toll like receptor-2
TLR-4	Toll like receptor-4
TNF- α	Fator de necrose tumoral- α

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1 INTRODUÇÃO

1.1 ASPECTOS GERAIS DA LEISHMANIOSE TEGUMENTAR AMERICANA (LTA)

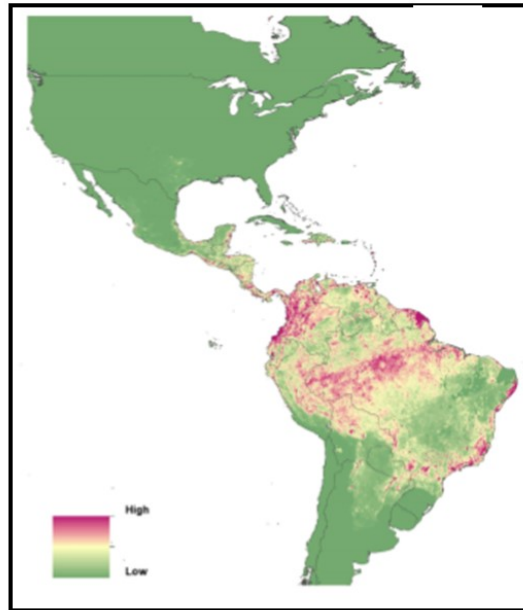
A Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana (LTA) é uma infecção zoonótica provocada por parasitos do gênero *Leishmania* em hospedeiros vertebrados, transmitida por meio da picada de insetos flebotomíneos. (SILVEIRA et al., 2008). É uma antropozoonose de importância mundial na saúde pública, uma vez que representam um complexo de doenças com ampla diversidade epidemiológica, com participação de diversos agentes etiológicos, vetores e hospedeiros no seu ciclo de transmissão (MARINHO-JR, 2010).

Segundo a Organização Mundial de Saúde, 95% dos casos de leishmaniose tegumentar ocorrem nas Américas, bacia do Mediterrâneo, Oriente Médio e Ásia Central. Estima-se que 0.7 a 1.3 milhões de novos casos ocorrem em todo o mundo anualmente, sendo que o Brasil está entre os países onde ocorre as infecções mais severas (Figura 1) (WHO, 2015; PIGOTT et al, 2014).

No Brasil, a LTA é uma doença em fase de expansão geográfica, registrando, na década de 80, casos em 19 estados brasileiros e, a partir de 2003, todas as Unidades Federadas passaram a registrar casos autóctones (NEGRÃO; FERREIRA, 2014). Entre 1980 e 1996 os casos registrados foram maiores de 300 mil (SILVEIRA et al., 1999). Em 2013, dados do Sistema de Informação de Agravos de Notificação (SINAN), confirmam 18.675 casos notificados (MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE/SVS - Sistema de Informação de Agravos de Notificação - Sinan Net, 2015). Esta doença tem relação com locais provenientes de colonização devido à modificação de matas remanescentes com a adaptação do vetor e reservatórios silvestres. Isto se fez propício para a continuidade do ciclo do parasita em regiões próximas a moradias, em zonas rurais e periferias de centros urbanos (LIMA et al., 2002).

No Paraná, Lima e colaboradores (2002) verificaram que houve registros crescentes de casos de LTA relatados até 1958 e a partir de 1980 se mantiveram endêmica em diversos municípios apesar do desmatamento já ocorrido. No Estado do Paraná, a LTA é endêmica com notificação em 276 dos 399 municípios, principalmente das regiões norte e oeste. No ano de 2013, 316 casos foram notificados (MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE/SVS - Sistema de Informação de Agravos de Notificação - Sinan Net, 2015).

Figura 1 - Distribuição da Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana: áreas de risco do verde (baixa probabilidade de presença) para o roxo (alta probabilidade de presença). Adaptado de Pigott et al. 2014



No Brasil já foram descritas 6 espécies do subgênero *Viannia* e 1 do subgênero *Leishmania*, sendo que 3 espécies são os principais agentes etiológicos circulantes da Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana: *Leishmania (Leishmania) amazonensis*, *Leishmania (Viannia) guyanensi* e *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis* (BRASIL, 2009). As espécies circulantes no estado do Paraná, *L. (Leishmania) amazonensis* e *L. (Viannia) braziliensis*, são conhecidas pelo potencial patogênico por causar as formas cutânea, cutânea difusa e mucocutânea (SILVEIRA et al., 2008).

1.2 FORMAS CLÍNICAS DA LEISHMANIOSE TEGUMENTAR AMERICANA

A LTA é considerada uma enfermidade polimórfica, que atinge a pele e as mucosas, agrupadas em diferentes formas clínicas. Assim, os parasitos ao invadir um hospedeiro mamífero, no local da picada, formam, geralmente, uma única lesão limitada, porém, dependendo da espécie do protozoário e da resposta imune do hospedeiro, a doença pode apresentar amplo espectro de severidade e uma série de formas clínicas, tais como: cutânea aguda ou localizada; mucocutânea e cutânea difusa (GARNIER; CROFT, 2002).

1 A Leishmaniose Cutânea (LC) apresenta lesões com características típicas
2 com formato arredondado ou ovalado, fundo granuloso, indolor e com base bem
3 delimitada, podendo formar úlceras únicas ou múltiplas (Leishmaniose Cutânea
4 Localizada ou Disseminada). Leishmaniose Cutânea Difusa (LCD) intimamente
5 ligada a *L. amazonensis*, é uma forma grave e rara que está associada a pouca ou à
6 falta de resposta celular ao antígeno do parasita, apresentando evolução lenta com
7 lesões não ulceradas em grande parte da pele (SILVEIRA et al., 2008; BRASIL,
8 2009), enquanto a Leishmaniose Mucocutânea (LM) está associada principalmente a
9 *L. braziliensis*. Pode ser secundária ou não a forma cutânea, sendo que
10 aproximadamente 3–5% dos pacientes desenvolvem lesões na mucosa, que pode
11 aparecer juntamente com as lesões cutâneas ou até após anos depois da cura de
12 lesões cutâneas. Caracteriza-se por infiltração, ulceração e destruição dos tecidos
13 da cavidade nasal, faringe e laringe (BRASIL, 2009; MEDEIROS et al., 2005;
14 GOMES et al., 2014).

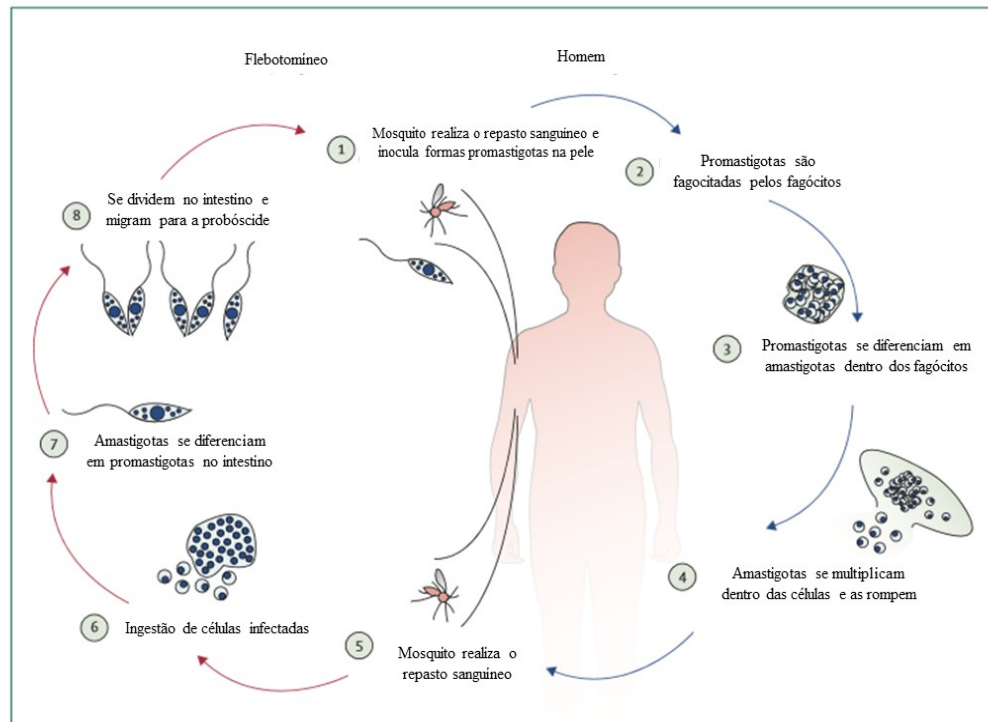
15 A intensidade da lesão causada por *Leishmania* é determinada pela espécie
16 do parasita assim como pela resposta imune do hospedeiro; embora os mecanismos
17 envolvidos na resposta imune de portadores de leishmaniose não estejam
18 claramente elucidados (CARVALHO et al., 1992; BACELLAR et al., 2002).

19 20 1.3 CICLO BIOLÓGICO

21 Os parasitos pertencentes a este gênero apresentam um ciclo heteroxênico
22 e com formas biológicas distintas: a forma amastigota, intracelular obrigatória e a
23 forma promastigota, infectante para o homem e presente no tubo digestivo dos
24 insetos vetores. A infecção se inicia após a inoculação das formas promastigotas
25 metacíclicas na epiderme do hospedeiro, devido ao repasto sanguíneo praticado
26 pelo vetor flebotomíneo fêmea (Ordem Diptera, família Psychodidae, subfamília
27 Phlebotominae, gênero *Lutzomyia*). As formas promastigotas metacíclicas são
28 internalizadas por fagócitos, principalmente macrófagos e rapidamente se
29 diferenciam na forma intracelular, amastigota, que irão se multiplicar dentro destas
30 células, resistindo à ação do fagolisossomo. A membrana da célula se rompe
31 quando não há mais espaço para a multiplicação, neste momento as formas
32 liberadas são fagocitadas por outras células fagocíticas desencadeando uma reação
33 inflamatória no local. Outra fêmea do inseto flebotomíneo, ao realizar o repasto
34 sanguíneo, ingere células infectadas. No intestino do inseto, as formas amastigotas

1 se diferenciam em promastigotas, se transformam em promastigotas metacíclicas e
 2 migram para a probóscide para reiniciar o ciclo quando houver novo repasto
 3 sanguíneo (LESSA et al., 2007; NEVES, 2011; GOMES et al., 2014; SILVEIRA et al.,
 4 2008)(Figura2).

6 **Figura 2** - Ciclo evolutivo de *Leishmania sp.*: Adaptado de Reithinger et al., 2007



9 1.4 RESPOSTA IMUNE NA LTA

10 Assim como nas infecções parasitárias, as infecções por *Leishmania spp.*
 11 levam a uma ativação específica da resposta imunológica por parte do hospedeiro e
 12 no intuito de elucidar aspectos desta relação parasito-hospedeiro, a infecção
 13 experimental em camundongos tem sido utilizada.

14 Estudos em camundongos infectados com *L. major*, modelo melhor
 15 estudado na doença infecciosa crônica, têm mostrado que a resposta imune
 16 mediada por células T desempenha um papel importante no processo para cura ou
 17 agravamento da doença, assim a suscetibilidade a *L. major* em camundongos
 18 BALB/c está relacionada com a produção de interleucinas como a (IL)-4 e IL-10 que
 19 direcionam a resposta para o perfil Th2, enquanto linhagem resistentes de
 20 camundongos, como C57BL/6, CBA, C3H apresentam produção precoce e contínua
 21 de IFN- γ e TNF- α direcionando para um perfil Th1, que em conjunto levam a

1 ativação dos macrófagos, desencadeando o “burst” oxidativo, durante o processo de
2 endocitose do parasito (PEARSON; STEIGBIGEL, 1981). Este fenômeno se
3 caracteriza pelo aumento da atividade respiratória da célula, ativação de enzimas
4 como a nicotinamida adenina dinucleótido fosfato oxidase (NADPH oxidase) que
5 transfere prótons para moléculas de oxigênio, formando moléculas altamente
6 reativas denominadas espécies reativas de oxigênio (ROS) como superóxidos,
7 peróxido de hidrogênio e radicais hidroxila; e aumento na atividade da enzima óxido
8 nítrico sintase induzível (iNOS), com consequente aumento na produção de NO,
9 molécula microbicida envolvida na eliminação do parasito (QADOUMI; BECKER et
10 al. 2002; CUNNINGHAM 2002).

11 No geral, após a ativação do macrófago por TNF- α e IFN- γ , há a produção
12 de óxido nítrico (NO), um gás inorgânico, molécula oxidante com importante papel
13 leishmanicida, que é sintetizada pela enzima Óxido Nítrico Sintase (NOS) pela
14 oxidação da L-arginina de maneira dependente na NADPH. A NOS possui três
15 isoformas: nNOS (neuronal ou NOS1), eNOS (endotelial ou NOS2) e a iNOS
16 (induzível ou NOS3), sendo que a nNOS e eNOS são conhecidas por serem
17 constitutivas e a iNOS é a isoforma expressa em decorrência de resposta imune
18 (DINIZ, 2004; GIUDICE et al., 2007).

19 A iNOS pode ser induzida por muitos estímulos imunológicos, como TNF- α e
20 IFN- γ produzidos por células Th1, enquanto a resposta Th2 ativa macrófagos a
21 produzir arginase que irá competir com a iNOS podendo inibir a produção do NO
22 (HUANG et al., 1998; HORTA et al., 2012).

23 O NO tem seu papel no meio biológico como alvo de intensas pesquisas, por
24 estar envolvido em uma gama de atividades biológicas como neurotransmissão,
25 regulação da pressão sanguínea, citotoxicidade entre outros (QUEIROZ; BATISTA,
26 1999).

27 Está muito bem estabelecido a função do NO na morte de *Leishmania* spp.
28 em células fagocíticas murina, contudo não há muitas observações sobre a
29 produção deste metabólito em monócitos (BORDON-GRACIANI et al., 2012). Sabe-
30 se que monócitos tem capacidade de produzir NO e de expressarem iNOS como foi
31 demonstrado por Bordon-Graciani e colaboradores (2012) quanto tratou monócitos
32 com IFN- γ , TNF- α ou GM-CSF.

33 Há também um importante papel de células T reguladoras (Treg), que por sua
34 vez, atuam induzindo a imunossupressão durante este tipo de infecção (BELKAID et

1 al., 2002; CAMPANELLI et al., 2006; VIGARIO et al., 2007; RODRIGUES et al,
2 2009). Assim, citocinas como IL-10 e o Fator de Transformação de Crescimento- β
3 (TGF- β) atuam sobre os macrófagos, reduzindo a sua capacidade de eliminar o
4 parasita, diminuindo também a capacidade destes apresentarem o antígeno a
5 células T efectoras, além de estarem associadas à proteção tecidual (GOMES et al.,
6 2014).

7 Diante da correlação de uma resposta imune polarizada e o resultado da
8 infecção, estabeleceu-se o conceito de que o balanço da resposta Th1/Th2 é que
9 determina o resultado clínico da infecção (ROBERTS, 2006).

10 Porém essa dicotomia Th1/Th2 ainda não é muito clara na infecção humana
11 (GOMES et al., 2014).

12 Em humanos, os monócitos circulantes, estão cada vez mais implicados
13 como agentes essenciais na defesa contra muitos patógenos, entre eles parasitos
14 do gênero *Leishmania* (SERBINA et al., 2008). Aproximadamente 10% dos
15 leucócitos circulantes em humanos são monócitos do sangue periférico, este tipo
16 celular é conhecido por ser a principal fonte de células progenitora circulante e
17 fazem parte de uma parcela vital no sistema imune (GEISSMANN et al., 2010).

18 Durante a infecção por *Leishmania* spp. monócitos circulantes deixam a
19 corrente sanguínea e migram para tecidos onde se diferenciam em macrófagos,
20 principal célula alvo na LTA, após ação de fatores de crescimento locais como
21 citocinas e produtos microbianos (SHI; PAMER, 2011). Esses macrófagos, quando
22 infectados por *Leishmania*, induzem uma resposta imune adaptativa, principalmente
23 pela ativação das células T (BACELLAR et al., 2002).

24 Castellano e colaboradores (2009) demonstraram que ocorrem níveis
25 significativos de citocinas tanto dos padrões Th1, Th2 como Treg em pacientes com
26 lesões ativas, contudo em pacientes curados, o padrão de resposta evoluiu para um
27 padrão Th1 com a produção de IFN- γ . Segundo os autores, em pacientes com LC, a
28 produção de IL-12 induz essa diferenciação para células Th1, na fase ativa da
29 doença e parece ser importante para a manutenção da produção de IFN- γ durante
30 essa mesma fase.

31 Embora essa resposta protetora de células Th1 esteja relacionada com a
32 cura da doença, uma resposta exagerada de células T é considerada uma causa
33 das lesões na leishmaniose cutânea e mucocutânea sendo que as lesões são
34 caracterizadas por um rico infiltrado inflamatório e com difícil detecção de parasitos

1 nesta lesão (CARVALHO et al., 2007). Giudice e colaboradores (2012)
2 demonstraram que macrófagos de pacientes com LC e LM produziam maior
3 secreção de TNF- α após a infecção *in vitro* com *L. braziliensis* comparados com
4 células de indivíduos subclínicos ou assintomáticos. O mesmo efeito foi verificado
5 em monócitos por Vieira e colaboradores (2013) onde houve o aumento da produção
6 de TNF- α em monócitos quando desafiados com antígeno solúvel de *L. braziliensis*.

7 O papel de outras citocinas também foi demonstrado no estudo de Gomes e
8 colaboradores (2014) onde formas amastigotas de *L. braziliensis* interagem com
9 PBMCs de doadores saudáveis estimulando a secreção de IL1 β , IL-6, IL-10 e TGF-
10 β .

11 12 1.5 TRATAMENTO

13 O tratamento atual da Leishmaniose se baseia na eliminação das formas
14 amastigotas de *Leishmania* spp. Contudo, a localização intramacrofágica desta
15 forma, impossibilita uma atuação mais eficaz dos atuais fármacos. Tal localização do
16 parasita é crucial para a susceptibilidade quimioterápica, que é também influenciada
17 pela presença de transportadores mediadores do influxo e do efluxo de drogas para
18 as células (RODRIGUES *et al.*, 2006).

19 As formas de tratamento têm se baseado no uso de antimônios
20 pentavalentes, desde a década de 40, como o antimonato de *N*-metil glucamina
21 (Glucantime®) e o estibogluconato de sódio (Pentostam® ou Solustibosan®)
22 (BRASIL, 2011). Outros fármacos como anfotericina B e pentamidina têm sido
23 usados como alternativas nos casos de resistência aos antimoniais, mas não
24 possuem um índice terapêutico tão favorável e também apresentam várias reações
25 adversas (BRAY et al., 2003; BERMAN, 2006).

26 Gaspar Vianna foi o primeiro a utilizar um composto antimonial, o tártaro
27 emético, para o tratamento da leishmaniose. O primeiro antimônio pentavalente
28 sintetizado foi o estibogluconato de sódio em 1945; neste mesmo ano, ocorreu a
29 síntese de outro composto pentavalente, o antimoniato de *N*-metil glucamina,
30 Glucantime® (FUNASA, 2000).

31 O Glucantime® é a droga de escolha no Brasil, esta droga age inibindo, em
32 formas amastigotas, a atividade glicolítica e a via oxidativa dos ácidos graxos. Porém
33 este mecanismo não está totalmente elucidado (MEDEIROS et al, 2005).

1 Contudo, o Glucantime® possui toxicidade cumulativa que geralmente
2 ocorre após a segunda semana de uso do medicamento. Os principais órgãos
3 atingidos por esses efeitos colaterais são coração, rins e fígado podendo atingir
4 pâncreas e causar dores articulares. Pacientes com doenças crônicas de rins,
5 coração e idosos devem ser bem acompanhados quanto à prescrição de antimoniais
6 (MEDEIROS et al, 2005).

7 A anfotericina B é um antibiótico que tem ação antifúngica e apresenta
8 resultados no tratamento da leishmaniose. É utilizada quando a resposta de
9 tratamento aos antimoniais não é satisfatória ou o uso destes não é recomendado.
10 Seu mecanismo de ação se dá na membrana do parasito, alterando a
11 permeabilidade celular, ocasionando a morte celular. Porém, possui alta
12 nefrotoxicidade e cardiotoxicidade o que limita seu uso (FILIPPIN; SOUZA, 2006;
13 MEDEIROS et al., 2005; BRASIL, 2011).

14 As pentamidinas agem no metabolismo de glicose, podendo levar a
15 hiperglicemia que como consequência pode levar ao desenvolvimento de diabetes
16 *mellitus*. É utilizado nas áreas endêmicas dos continentes americano, asiático e
17 africano, sendo comercializada nas formulações isotionato (Di-B-Hidroxietano
18 Sulfonato) e mesilato (Di-B-Hidroximetil-Sulfonato) (BRASIL, 2011).

19 Conforme o exposto, a quimioterapia para LTA não é satisfatória, devido: à
20 toxicidade destas drogas; dificuldade de administração; longo tempo de tratamento,
21 somado ao fato de relatos sobre o encontro de parasitos em pacientes considerados
22 curados clinicamente. Além disso, vacinas efetivas ainda não foram desenvolvidas e
23 cepas com diferentes sensibilidades e resistência às drogas disponíveis exigem uma
24 urgência na busca de novas terapias leishmanicidas.

25 26 1.6 ALTERNATIVA TERAPÊUTICA

27 28 1.6.1 Própolis

29 Devido aos vários fatores expostos, a pesquisa para a descoberta de novas
30 alternativas terapêuticas tem sido procurada nas últimas décadas. O uso de
31 produtos naturais é tido como promissor para a descoberta de novos fármacos
32 (SFORCIN; BANKOVA, 2011).

33 O produto coletado pelas abelhas das gemas e exsudatos das plantas é
34 transformado em um material resinoso na presença de enzimas, a própolis. Mais de

1 300 compostos já foram descritos e a cor juntamente com a composição química
2 variam conforme a localidade, planta e flora local (SFORCIN et al., 2000; LOTFY,
3 2006; SFORCIN, 2007). Burdock (1998) demonstrou que a composição geral da
4 própolis é de 30% de cera, 50% de resina de bálsamo e vegetal, 10% de óleos
5 essenciais e aromáticos, 5% de pólen, entre outras substâncias.

6 Para a medicina humana e veterinária as plantas medicinais e seus
7 componentes químicos tem sido muito atraentes para o desenvolvimento de novas
8 alternativas terapêuticas (ORSATTI et al., 2010).

9 Um dos mais importantes produtos das abelhas contra microrganismos
10 patogênicos é a própolis, que vem sendo usada pelos seres humanos desde os
11 tempos antigos. Nos Estados Balcãs a própolis tem sido utilizada no tratamento de
12 feridas, queimaduras e úlceras de estômago (BANKOVA, 2005).

13 Sforcin e Bankova (2011) relatam o uso da própolis por gregos e romanos
14 devido a suas propriedades antissépticas e de cicatrização, e os egípcios a
15 utilizavam para embalsamar os mortos devido a sua ação anti-putrefação.

16 Dentre as diversas atividades comprovadas que a própolis possui destacam-
17 se as atividades antimicrobiana, estimulante do sistema imune, antifúngica, anti-
18 inflamatória, imunomodulatória e leishmanicida (LOTFY, 2006; SFORCIN, 2007;
19 AMARANTE et al., 2012; SILVA et al., 2013). A própolis já foi demonstrada por seu
20 efeito antibacteriano contra isolados de *Streptococcus mutans* e antifúngica contra
21 *Candida sp* (KROL et al., 2013) e antiprotozoários. Freitas (2006) demonstrou que a
22 própolis inibiu o crescimento de trofozoitos de *Giardia* de maneira dose-dependente.

23 Silva e colaboradores (2013) verificaram que a própolis promoveu efeitos
24 sobre a forma promastigotas de *L. braziliensis* reduzindo o crescimento e
25 promovendo diversas alterações morfológicas. Verificou-se ainda, que na
26 concentração de 100µg/mL de própolis, o mesmo efeito antiproliferativo sobre a
27 promastigota que quando tratadas com Glucantime.

28 Em relação à resposta imune, nosso grupo demonstrou anteriormente que
29 os níveis de expressão de mRNA de INF-γ foi modulado em PBMCs de doadores
30 saudáveis e de pacientes com leishmaniose, tratados com própolis, enquanto os
31 níveis de expressão de CCL5 em PBMCs de pacientes foram aumentados na
32 presença de própolis (AMARANTE et al., 2012).

33 Outras citocinas também se mostraram moduladas por própolis, como TNF-
34 α, que se mostrou aumentada de maneira significativa no exudato peritoneal e no

1 homogeneizado do fígado em camundongos tratados com a própolis após a infecção
2 com *Leishmania* (SILVA et al., 2013). Do mesmo modo, as citocinas IL-1 β e IL-6,
3 também se mostraram moduladas pela própolis, quando ORSATTI e colaboradores,
4 2010 verificaram em macrófagos peritoneais que apenas o tratamento com própolis
5 induz o aumento da produção basal de IL-1 β , enquanto em cultura de células do
6 baço de camundongos, houve aumento na produção tanto de IL-1 β quanto de IL-6.

7 Orsatti e colaboradores (2010) também observaram o aumento na
8 expressão de TLR-2 e TLR-4 em macrófagos de camundongos tratados com
9 própolis. Verificou-se também o aumento na expressão apenas de TLR-4 em células
10 do baço tratadas com própolis, sendo que a expressão deste tipo de TLR está
11 correlacionada com a produção de TNF- α e IL-1 β em macrófagos peritoneais.

12 Além de sua ação sobre a produção de citocinas, a própolis também é
13 demonstrada por sua atividade no aumento na geração de peróxido de hidrogênio
14 (H₂O₂) (ORSI et al., 2000; IVANOVSKA et al., 1995).

15

16

17

1 2 OBJETIVOS

2

3 2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

4 Análise *in vitro* da atividade biológica da própolis brasileira, sobre monócitos
5 obtidos de PBMC humano na leishmaniose.

6

7 2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

8 **Própolis**

- 9 • Avaliar *in vitro* a ação direta da própolis brasileira sobre formas
10 promastigotas de *L. braziliensis*.
- 11 • Determinar *in vitro* os níveis de óxido nítrico no soro de pacientes e
12 doadores saudáveis.
- 13 • Avaliar *in vitro* o efeito da própolis brasileira sobre a síntese de NO
14 em PBMC de pacientes com leishmaniose e indivíduos saudáveis,
15 infectados com *Leishmania*.
- 16 • Verificar *in vitro* a expressão do fator de transcrição NFκB e o perfil
17 de citocinas (IL-2, IL-6, IFN-γ e TGF-β) em PBMC de pacientes com
18 leishmaniose e indivíduos saudáveis, tratados com da própolis
19 brasileira e infectados com *L. braziliensis*.

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1 **4. PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA**

2 **4.1 Artigo Científico**

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4 **Brazilian propolis modulates leishmania-infected human mononuclear cells *in***
 5 ***vitro***

6 Ana Paula Fortes dos Santos Thomazelli^a; Carolina Panis^b; Tatiane Marcusso
 7 Orsini^a; Allan Henrique Depieri Cataneo^a; Fernanda Tomiotto-Pelissier^a; Milena
 8 Menegazzo Miranda^a; Suelen Santos da Silva^a; Luiz Antonio Custódio^c; Vera Lúcia
 9 Hideko Tatakihara^c; Maria Angélica Ehara Watanabe^a; Juliano Bordignon^d; José
 10 Maurício Sforcin^e; Idessania Nazareth Costa^a; Ionice Felipe^a; Wander Rogério
 11 Pavanelli^a; Ivete Conchon-Costa^{*a}.

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13 ^aDepartamento de Ciências Patológicas, Centro de Ciências Biológicas,
 14 Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, Paraná, Brazil. Rodovia Celso Garcia
 15 Cid - Pr 445 Km 380, s/n - Campus Universitário, Londrina - PR, 86057-970.
 16 Telephone: +55 43 33714539.

17 ^bLaboratório de Mediadores Inflamatórios, Universidade do Oeste do Paraná,
 18 UNIOESTE, Francisco Beltrão, Paraná, Brazil. Street Maringá, 1200 - Vila Nova.
 19 Postal address: 85605-010. Telephone: +55 46 3520-4848.

20 ^cAmbulatório de Especialidades do Hospital Universitário de Londrina, Londrina,
 21 Paraná, Brazil. Avenue Robert Koch, 60 – Vila Operária, Londrina – PR. Postal
 22 address: 86038-350. Telephone: +55 43 3371-2000.

23 ^dLaboratório de Virologia Molecular, Instituto Carlos Chagas (ICC/Fiocruz/PR),
 24 Curitiba, Paraná, Brasil, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia Celular e
 25 Molecular, Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil.
 26 Professor Algacyr Munhoz Mader Street, Curitiba/PR, Brasil. Postal adress: 81350-
 27 010. Telephone: +55 41 3316-3230. Fax: +55 41 3316-3267.

28 ^e Departamento de Microbiologia e Imunologia, Instituto de Biociência, UNESP,
 29 Botucatu, São Paulo, Brazil. Rubião Junior District, s/n. Postal adress: 18618-970 -
 30 Botucatu, São Paulo. Telephone: +55 14 3811 6000.

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32 ^{*} **E-mail: conchon@uel.br. Telephone +55 43 3371-4539.**

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES: The therapeutic options for American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL) are very restricted and potentially toxic. Thus, the aim of this study was to investigate the immunomodulatory effects of propolis on ACL patients-derived peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC).

METHODS: PBMC were obtained from healthy donors and patients diagnosed with ACL. Samples were incubated with Brazilian propolis and challenged with *Leishmania braziliensis*. Then, were performed the nitric oxide (NO) and cytokines (IL-2, IL-6 and IFN- γ) measurements, and the cells were used to immunocytochemical analyses for iNOS and cNOS, NF κ B (p50) and TGF- β 1. Additionally, we investigated the effect of propolis directly on promastigotes forms of *Leishmania braziliensis*.

KEY FINDINGS: Our data revealed that propolis inhibited the proliferative capacity of *Leishmania braziliensis* promastigotes. Regarding NO production, propolis treatment was not able to reverse the impairment of NO-axis caused by the parasite. Moreover, propolis did lead to the recovery of NF κ B levels downregulated by leishmaniasis, as well as the upregulation of cytokines levels.

CONCLUSIONS: This data indicates that propolis can activate the proinflammatory cytokines production by leishmaniasis-derived PBMC, recovering these cells from immunosuppression induced by *Leishmania* parasites.

Key words: leishmaniasis, patients, propolis, NF κ B

1 Introduction

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3 American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL) is an infectious disease caused
4 by parasites of the genus *Leishmania* in vertebrate hosts. It is a zoonotic infection
5 that can be transmitted to humans.^[1, 2] The leishmaniasis parasites are spread
6 worldwide in 88 countries and it is particularly prevalent in Brazil, India and some
7 African countries.^[3] This disease can manifest in the skin, mucocutaneous and
8 visceral forms, depending on factors such as the host immune response and the
9 parasite species. The mucocutaneous form predominates in *Leishmania (Viannia)*
10 *braziliensis* infection, which is characterized by infiltration, ulceration and destruction
11 of the tissues of the nasal cavity, pharynx and larynx.^[4]

12 Blood monocytes leave the bloodstream and migrate into tissues where they
13 differentiate into macrophages after exposure to local growth factors such as
14 cytokines and microbial products. The recruitment of monocytes is essential for the
15 effective control and removal of viruses, bacteria, fungi and protozoa.^[5]

16 Host resistance has been associated with activation of Th1 lymphocytes, with
17 secretion of proinflammatory mediators such as interferon (IFN)- γ , interleukin (IL)-1 β
18 and tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α . Subsequent activation of macrophages and
19 production of other molecules, such as nitric oxide (NO), have also been reported
20 and are responsible for the death of the parasite. On the other hand, the
21 susceptibility to infection is related to the Th2 pattern, involving the secretion of IL-4
22 and IL-13.^[6-10]

23 The chemotherapeutic treatment of ACL is still limited to the use of
24 pentavalent antimonials such as the first-choice drugs N-methylglucamine
25 (Glucantime®) and sodium stibogluconate (Pentostam), however the latter is not
26 marketed in Brazil.^[11] In addition, Glucantime® exerts cumulative toxicity which
27 usually occurs after the second week of drug use. The main affected organs by this
28 drug are heart, kidneys and liver, but it can also affect pancreas, and cause joint
29 pain.^[4] Besides, there are reports that parasites may be found in patients who are
30 considered clinically healed with current chemotherapy. Therefore, the search for
31 alternative drugs for the treating ACL is necessary, and natural compounds have
32 emerged as potential therapeutic options for treating chronic pathologies, especially
33 parasitic infections.

1 Recently, propolis has been one of the main studied natural products due its
2 several biological effects, such as antimicrobial, immunomodulatory, antifungal, anti-
3 inflammatory, and leishmanicidal activities.^[12-15] Previous studies of our group have
4 reported that the levels of IFN- γ mRNA were increased in peripheral blood
5 mononuclear cells (PBMC) derived from ACL patients after propolis treatment.¹⁴ In
6 addition, propolis also increased hydrogen peroxide generation by murine peritoneal
7 macrophages.^[16, 17]

8 Although there are some evidence that propolis may be effective against
9 leishmaniasis, its effects on *Leishmania*-immunossupressed PBMC have not been
10 investigated yet. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of propolis
11 on NO production, TGF- β 1, NF κ B (p50), cNOS and iNOS expression and cytokine
12 production (IL-2, IL-6 and IFN- γ) by human PBMC from healthy donors and patients
13 diagnosed with ACL, treated with propolis and challenged with *L. braziliensis*.

14 15 **Material and methods**

16 17 **Subjects**

18 PBMC from healthy donors and patients diagnosed with leishmaniasis (by
19 indirect immunofluorescence assay, biopsies and clinical parameters) were
20 investigated. All individuals were treated in the Clinical Hospital of the State
21 University of Londrina, Brazil. Patients (n=14) and healthy donors (n=9) signed a
22 consent form. This work was approved by the Human Ethics Committee of the State
23 University of Londrina and followed all institutional guidelines (257/08 - May 22,
24 2009). Clinicopathological data of patients are shown in Table 1.

25 26 **Brazilian propolis extract**

27 Brazilian propolis was produced by honeybee (*Apis mellifera L.*) colonies in
28 the Beekeeping Section of the Lageado Farm, UNESP, Campus of Botucatu, Brazil,
29 and was extracted and characterized using thin-layer chromatography (TLC), gas
30 chromatography (GC), and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS)
31 analysis in the same manner as previously reported.^[18] The major constituents of
32 Brazilian propolis were isolated and identified to be flavonoids (kaempferid, 5,6,7-
33 trihydroxy-3,4'-dimethoxyflavone, aromadendrine-4'methyl ether), a prenylated p-
34 coumaric acid and two benzopyranes (E- and Z-2,2-dimethyl-6-carboxyethenyl8-

1 prenyl-2H-benzopyranes), essential oils (spathulenol (2Z,6E)-farnesol, benzyl
2 benzoate and prenylated acetophenones), aromatic acids (dihydrocinnamic acid, p-
3 coumaric acid, ferulic acid, caffeic acid, 3,5-diprenyl-p-coumaric acid, 2,2-dimethyl-6-
4 carboxy-ethenyl-8-prenyl-2H-1-benzopyran), and di- and triterpenes.^[13]

7 ***Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis* promastigotes**

8 Promastigote forms of *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis*
9 (MHOM/BR/1987/M11272) were maintained in culture medium 199 (GIBCO
10 Invitrogen), and supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS GIBCO Invitrogen),
11 1M HEPES, 0.1% human urine, 0.1% L-glutamine, 10 µg/mL penicillin and
12 streptomycin (GIBCO Invitrogen), and 10% sodium bicarbonate (complete medium
13 for promastigotes – CMP). Cell cultures were incubated at 24°C in 25cm² flasks.

15 **Proliferation assay**

16 Promastigote forms (1×10⁶/mL) were incubated in CMP and treated with
17 Brazilian propolis at final concentrations of 5 and 10 µg/mL for 7 days at 24°C.
18 Promastigotes were counted in a Neubauer chamber at the seventh day. Control
19 promastigotes were cultured in CMP alone.

21 **Human PBMC culture and treatments**

22 Human PBMC obtained from the heparinized blood of patients and healthy
23 control subjects were separated on Ficoll-Hypaque (Sigma) and maintained in RPMI
24 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), glutamine (0,1%,
25 Invitrogen-Life Technologies) and penicillin-streptomycin (100 U/ml, Sigma). PBMC
26 (5 x 10⁵ cells/well) were incubated in 24 well plates containing 13 mm diameter glass
27 coverslips in the absence or presence of propolis at 5 and 10 µg/ml for 24 h at 37°C
28 and 5% CO₂. After propolis treatment, adherent PBMC were challenged with
29 promastigote forms of *Leishmania braziliensis* (5:1) for 2 h and the supernatants
30 were collected and kept at -76°C until further analysis.

32 **Determination of nitric oxide levels**

33 NO determination was estimated as total nitrite content.^[19] Briefly,
34 supernatants of adherent PBMC from both patients and healthy controls treated or

1 not with propolis were deproteinized by adding ZnSO₄ (50 μL, 75 mM) and NaOH (70
2 μL, 55mM). The mixture was centrifuged (10.000 rpm, 5 minutes, 4°C). The
3 supernatant was recovered and diluted in glycine buffer solution (45 g/L pH 9.7). It
4 was added cadmium granules previously activated with CuSO₄ (5mM) solution and
5 left for 10 minutes at room temperature. After incubation time, 50μL of the
6 supernatant aliquots were transferred to 96-well microplates and the same volume of
7 Griess reagent was added. Calibration curve was prepared by dilution of NaNO₂ and
8 the absorbances were measured at 550 nm in a microplate reader.

10 **Immunocytochemistry for TGF-β1, NFκB, cNOS and iNOS**

11 Immunocytochemistry for TGF-β1, NFκB (p50), cNOS and iNOS was
12 performed on coverslip-adherent PBMC according to the protocol described
13 previously, using the labeled streptavidin biotin method by LSAB KIT (DAKO Japan,
14 Kyoto, Japan). The coverslips were incubated with 10% Triton X-100 solution for 1
15 hour, washed 3 times with PBS, and treated for 40 min at room temperature with
16 10% FBS. In addition, coverslips were incubated overnight at 4°C with the mouse
17 primary antibodies (anti-TGF-β1, anti-NFκB (p50), anti-cNOS and anti-iNOS rabbit
18 polyclonal antibodies at 1:300 dilution, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, USA). After
19 secondary antibody treatment (2 hours, room temperature), horseradish peroxidase
20 activity was visualized by adding H₂O₂ and 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB) for 5 min. At
21 the last step, the sections were weakly counterstained with Harry's hematoxylin
22 (Merck). For each case, negative controls were performed by omitting the primary
23 antibody. Intensity and localization of immunoreactivities against primary antibody
24 were examined on all coverslips using a photomicroscope (Olympus BX41, Olympus
25 Optical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). For image analysis, photomicroscopic colour slides
26 of 20 representative areas (objective lens x 40) were digitally acquired. For
27 determining a semi-quantitative scoring, images were evaluated by using the color
28 de-convolution tool from the Image J software (NIH, USA). Pixels were scored as
29 previously described^[20] as high positive (3+), positive (2+), low positive (1+) and
30 negative (0).

32 **Cytokine determination**

1 The Cytometric Bead Array Assay (CBA, BD Biosciences) was used to
2 measure the levels of IL-2, IL-6 and IFN- γ in supernatants from adherent PBMC
3 (patients and healthy controls) following the manufacturer's instructions.

4 5 **Statistical analysis**

6 All analyses were conducted in triplicate. Statistical analysis was performed
7 using the software GraphPad Prism 5.0 (Graph Pad, USA). Results were expressed
8 as arithmetic means and standard errors of the means. Differences among the
9 groups were assessed by One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc
10 Bonferroni's test or by Student's paired t-test. All data were checked using the
11 Grubbs test (GraphPad Quickcalcs) to eliminate significant outliers ($p < 0.05$). A $p <$
12 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

13 14 **Results**

15 Of the 14 patients with ACL, 12 were women aged between 33-71 years, with
16 anti-*Leishmania* serology titres ranging from 1:40 to 1:320. It was possible to identify
17 in the biopsies the presence of *Leishmania* parasites (15%) and inflammatory
18 infiltrates (30%). Regarding the clinical observations, 30% of patients were diagnosed
19 with the ulcerous form of the disease, while 70% presented mixed forms (ulcer,
20 crusting of scarring lesions). Further, 40% of patients exhibited lesions in the lower
21 limbs (Table 1).

22 First, we aimed at verifying if Brazilian propolis could exert leishmanicidal
23 effects on promastigotes forms of *Leishmania braziliensis* (Figure 1). Data showed
24 that both concentrations of propolis inhibited the proliferation of promastigotes
25 significantly at the seventh day of treatment *in vitro* (control: 105.54 ± 17.4 ; 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$
26 of propolis: 50.34 ± 11.89 ; 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ of propolis: 48.22 ± 8.08). Since propolis extract
27 was efficient against *Leishmania* parasites, we conducted further experiments aiming
28 to investigate its effect on human PBMC derived from healthy subjects and
29 leishmaniasis patients. Leishmaniasis patients showed significantly reduced NO
30 serum levels compared to healthy controls (Figure 2A – healthy controls: $167.30 \pm$
31 $5.3 \mu\text{M}$; patients: $81.60 \pm 12.3 \mu\text{M}$). Propolis treatment did not affect any variable in
32 healthy PBMC (data not shown). Therefore, all data presented here regarding the
33 treatment with propolis refers to leishmaniasis-derived PBMC and then infected with
34 *L. braziliensis*.

1 Therefore, we investigated if Brazilian propolis was able to affect NO
2 production in PBMC from patients, with or without *Leishmania braziliensis* parasites
3 (Figure 2B). Propolis did not affect the capacity of patients-derived PBMC to produce
4 NO in the presence of *Leishmania* promastigotes in comparison to untreated PBMC
5 from patients (healthy control: $179.50 \pm 21.90 \mu\text{M}$; leishmanial PBMC plus propolis 5
6 $\mu\text{g/mL}$: $71.85 \pm 20.50 \mu\text{M}$; leishmanial PBMC plus propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$: 82.10 ± 29.16
7 μM). Thus, analyses were carried out using only propolis at 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

8 Concerning immunocytochemistry labeling for NO axis, propolis treatment was
9 not an efficient stimulator of cNOS expression in patient-derived PBMC challenged
10 with *L.braziliensis* compared to healthy donors (healthy control: 0.60 ± 0.24 arbitrary
11 units; untreated leishmanial PBMC: 0.80 ± 0.20 arbitrary units; leishmanial PBMC
12 plus propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$: 0.60 ± 0.25 arbitrary units) neither iNOS expression (healthy
13 control: 0.40 ± 0.25 arbitrary units; untreated leishmanial PBMC: 0.60 ± 0.25 arbitrary
14 units; leishmanial PBMC plus propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$: 0.80 ± 0.37 arbitrary units) (Figure
15 2C and 2D).

16 Figure 3 shows the immunolabeling for NF κ B (p50), showing that NF κ B was
17 downregulated in leishmaniasis-derived PBMC challenged with *L.braziliensis*
18 compared to healthy PBMC (control: 1.75 ± 0.14 arbitrary units; leishmanial PBMC:
19 1.10 ± 0.16), which was significantly reversed by propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ treatment,
20 reaching healthy PBMC levels (control: 1.75 ± 0.14 arbitrary units; Leishmanial
21 PBMC: 2.30 ± 0.16).

22 Since an altered NF κ B (p50) expression was seen after propolis exposure, we
23 additionally measured the cytokine levels produced by PBMC (Figure 4). After
24 propolis treatment, increased levels of all proinflammatory cytokines were observed
25 in comparison to patients untreated PBMC: IL-2 ($11.34 \pm 0.34 \text{ ng/mL}$ in patient PBMC
26 plus propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$)(Figure 4A), IL-6 ($90.91 \pm 0.91 \text{ ng/mL}$ in patient PBMC plus
27 propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) (Figure 4B), and IFN- γ ($105.80 \pm 5.83 \text{ ng/mL}$ in patient PBMC plus
28 propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) (Figure 4C). TGF- β 1 expression was also enhanced in untreated
29 PBMC and patients PBMC after propolis exposure (control: 1.00 ± 0.21 arbitrary
30 units; leishmanial PBMC: 0.90 ± 0.17 ; patient PBMC plus propolis 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$: $1.85 \pm$
31 0.18 arbitrary units) (Figure 4D).

32 33 **Discussion**

1 According to the World Health Organization, leishmaniasis is in the list of the
2 seventeen neglected tropical diseases,^[21] meaning that few resources have been
3 invested by governments aiming to develop effective treatments against this disease.
4 Therefore, there is an urgent need for developing new therapies, since the available
5 treatment is very toxic and fails frequently.^[22] Thus, the use of natural compounds
6 has emerged as a promising strategy^[23] and in the present study we investigated the
7 effects of Brazilian propolis as a putative immunomodulator for peripheral blood cells
8 obtained from patients diagnosed with ACL.

9 Our data indicates that Brazilian propolis exerts a direct effect on *Leishmania*
10 parasites, inhibiting promastigote proliferation. Previous findings of our group have
11 demonstrated that Brazilian propolis is an antileishmanial product, displaying
12 immunomodulatory effects on murine macrophages, regulating cytokines
13 secretion.^[15] Other studies have also confirmed the leishmanicidal properties of
14 propolis^[24-26] however, few studies have reported its effect on human PBMC obtained
15 from patients bearing leishmaniasis.^[14] Thus, we conducted this research by treating
16 leishmaniasis-derived PBMC with Brazilian propolis, challenging with *L. braziliensis*
17 and then evaluating its impact on nitric oxide axis and the production of cytokines.

18 We first determined the circulating NO levels in the serum of patients
19 diagnosed with leishmaniasis and compared to those from healthy donors. NO is a
20 metabolite produced from the substrate arginine by the activity of both constitutive
21 (cNOS) and inducible (iNOS) nitric oxide synthase.^[27] Notably, all components of the
22 NO pathway are targets of *Leishmania* to evade of the immune response.^[28] Our data
23 demonstrated that leishmaniasis patients presented a depleted systemic NO, as well
24 as reduced NO production by PBMC.

25 Impairment of NO production is well established in *Leishmania* infections;
26 therefore, we investigated the impact of propolis affecting the NO axis from patients-
27 derived PBMC challenged with *L. braziliensis*. Here, neither NO or NOS were
28 reestablished in leishmaniasis-derived PBMC after propolis treatment. These data
29 indicated that propolis was not able to overcome the NO depletion induced by
30 *Leishmania* parasites on PBMC during leishmaniasis.

31 Propolis is a well known immunomodulatory product and may influence the
32 cytokine production by mononuclear cells.^[14] Therefore, we evaluated the effect of
33 propolis treatment on cytokines produced by leishmaniasis-derived PBMC. Because
34 cytokines may be affected by NFκB activity,^[29] we investigated its expression after

1 propolis exposure. Our data demonstrated that propolis treatment significantly
2 reversed NF κ B downregulation promoted by leishmaniasis in human PBMC
3 challenged with *L.braziliensis*, reaching the healthy control levels. Although previous
4 reports indicate that propolis acts by reducing NF κ B expression in experimental
5 models,^[29] no study has discussed its effects on human leishmaniasis after propolis
6 intervention.

7 The upregulation of NF κ B in PBMC suggested that cytokine production could
8 be altered by propolis treatment, and this fact represents an advance in leishmaniasis
9 research, because affected individuals are often immunosuppressed.^[30] In fact, the
10 proinflammatory cytokines IL-6 and IFN- γ were increased in PBMCs of patients after
11 propolis treatment and challenged with *L.braziliensis*, as well as IL-2 and TGF- β 1
12 levels. This data indicates that propolis extract may stimulate the Th1 pattern and
13 favor the clonal expansion of lymphocytes during leishmaniasis. The predominance
14 of a proinflammatory profile has been reported in PBMC from patients only after
15 chemotherapeutic treatment or in self-healed subjects,^[31] suggesting that propolis
16 can exert a positive impact on the immune response against *Leishmania*. Propolis
17 itself does not stimulate the production of IL-2, but can strongly stimulate its
18 production in the presence of intracellular pathogens^[32] which occurred in our
19 experiment.

20 TGF- β is a cytokine strongly associated with wound-healing processes, and
21 has been implicated in the immunopathogenesis of human cutaneous
22 leishmaniasis.^[33] Human macrophages are able to produce TGF- β during *Leishmania*
23 *amazonensis* challenge, and it has been associated with the establishment of early
24 infection in human cutaneous leishmaniasis³⁴. Our data revealed that propolis extract
25 enhanced TGF- β 1 expression in *Leishmania*-derived PBMC challenged with
26 *L.braziliensis*. Propolis may induce the expression of TGF- β 1 in human immune cells,
27 especially T regulatory lymphocytes.^[35] It has been suggested that this cytokine is
28 stimulated in leishmaniasis by amastigotes altogether with IL-6, and may contribute
29 to the generation of a Th17 pattern.^[36] Moreover, the overexpression of concomitant
30 TGF- β and IFN- γ has been reported in granulomas from cutaneous leishmaniasis
31 individuals bearing the intermediate form of the disease.^[37] Furthermore, elevated
32 TGF- β in PBMC or T cells was reported after propolis exposure, which is related to a
33 strong iNOS inhibition.^[13, 35] This fact helps to understand why the NO system was
34 not affected by propolis in the present study.

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Conclusion

Our findings indicated that propolis positively affected circulating mononuclear cells derived from leishmaniasis patients. Moreover, these findings reinforced that the host-parasite interactions may affect the immune response involving PBMC, and further indicates that the role of propolis in human PBMC infected with leishmaniasis may differ from the one found in experimental models.

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1 **Table**

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3 **Table 1 – Clinicopathological data of patients.** Patients diagnosed with American
 4 Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (by indirect immunofluorescence assay,
 5 biopsies and clinical parameters) from Clinical Hospital of the State
 6 University of Londrina, Brazil.

Parameter	Data
Total number of patients	14
Gender	85% female 15% male
Mean age in years (range)	51 (33-71)
Histopatological findings	15% with the parasite identified in the biopsy 30% inflammatory infiltrate presence
Mean titer of serology for Leishmaniasis	1:124
Type of lesions	30% ulcerous 70% ulcer, crusting or scarring
Site of infection	40% lower limbs 60% face and neck

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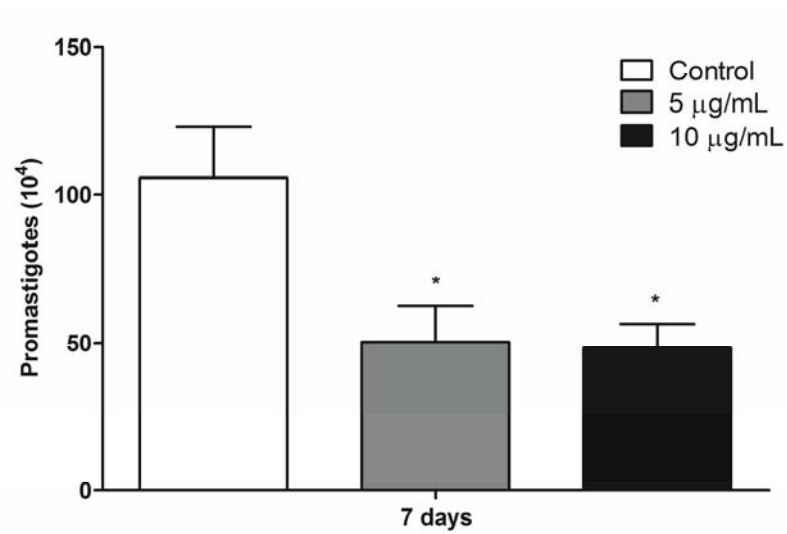
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1 **Figures**
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5 **Figure 1 – *In vitro* leishmanicidal effect of Brazilian propolis on promastigotes**
6 **of *L. braziliensis*.** Promastigote forms of *L. braziliensis* treated with
7 Brazilian propolis (5 and 10 ug/ mL) on the seventh day after treatment.
8 The result is expressed as the mean ± SEM of three independent
9 experiments. * P <0.05 compared with the control (One way ANOVA
10 followed by Bonferroni's test).
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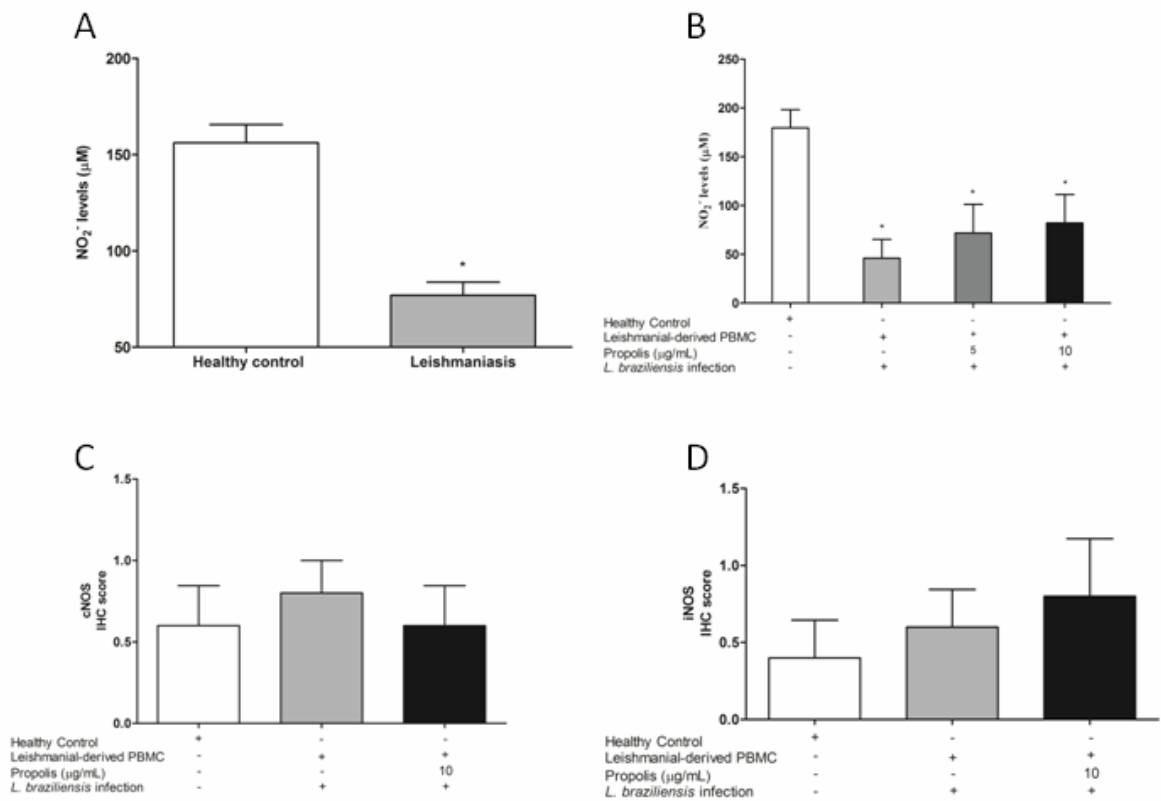


Figure 2 - Profile of NO in PBMC from healthy and ACL individuals. (A) Total production of NO in serum from healthy donors and from patients with ACL (* P <0.05 compared with the healthy control, Students-t Test). Adherent PBMC derived from healthy donors and patients with ACL treated with Brazilian propolis (5 or 10 µg/mL for 24 hours), infected or not with *L.braziliensis* (2h) were evaluated by (B) NO production (system cadmium-copper followed by Griess reaction), (C) expression of constitutive NOS (cNOS) and (D) inducible NOS (iNOS) by immunocytochemistry. The results are expressed as the mean ± SEM of groups. * P <0.05 compared with the healthy control (One way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's test).

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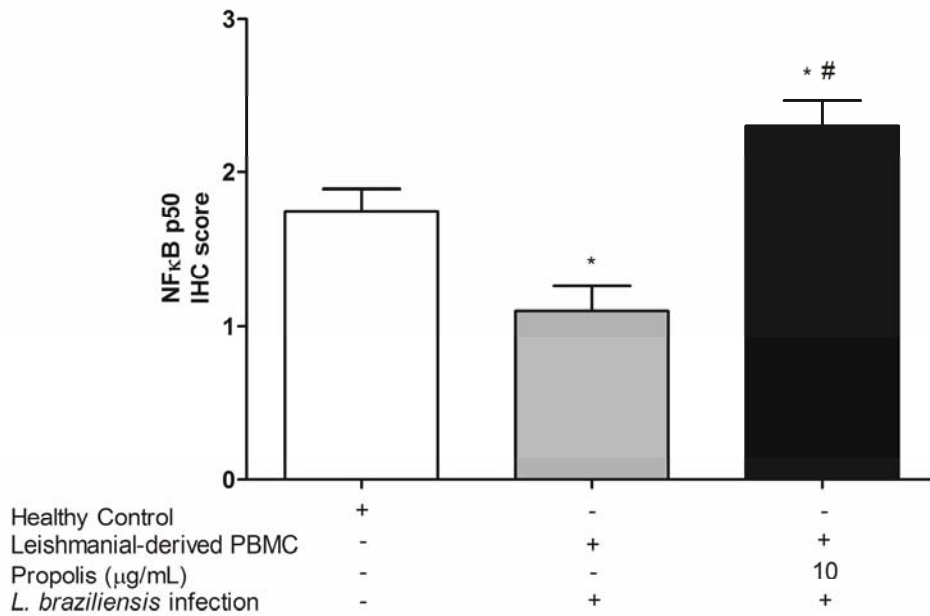
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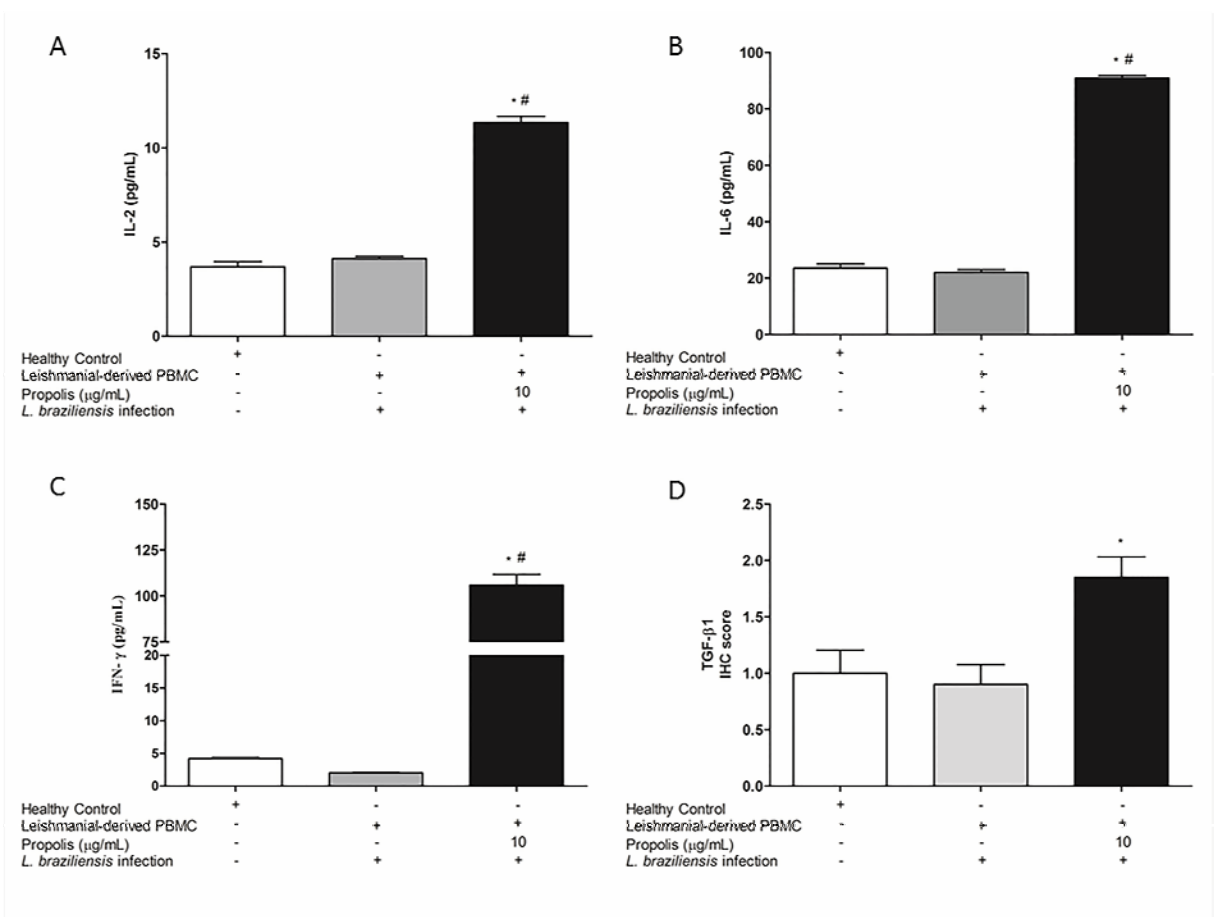
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5 **Figure 3- Brazilian propolis increases NFκB expression in PBMC of patients**
 6 **with ACL infected with *L. braziliensis*.** Immunocytochemistry labelling of
 7 NFκB (p50) in adherent PBMC from healthy donors and ACL patients
 8 treated with 10 ug/mL of Brazilian propolis (24h) and infected with *L.*
 9 *braziliensis* (2h). The result is expressed as the mean ± SEM. * P <0.05
 10 compared with the healthy control and # PBMC from ACL-patients infected
 11 with *L. braziliensis*. (One way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's test).


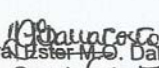
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2 **Figure 4 - Cytokine profile in PBMC from healthy donors and patients with**
 3 **ACL treated with Brazilian propolis and infected with *L. braziliensis*.**
 4 PBMC from healthy donor and ACL patients, treated or not with Brazilian
 5 propolis (10 ug/mL for 24 hours) and infected with *L. braziliensis*. After
 6 infection (2 hours), the culture supernatant was collected and evaluated
 7 levels of (A) IL-2, (B) IL-6 (C) IFN- γ by CBA and (D) TGF- β by
 8 immunocytochemistry. The result is expressed as the mean \pm SEM. * P
 9 <0.05 compared with the healthy control and # PBMC from ACL-patients
 10 infected with *L. braziliensis*. (One way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's
 11 test).

1 APÊNDICE A - Parecer Consubstanciado do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa em
 2 Seres Humanos da Universidade Estadual de Londrina: Própolis
 3

 <p>COMITÊ DE ÉTICA EM PESQUISA ENVOLVENDO SERES HUMANOS Universidade Estadual de Londrina/ Hospital Universitário Regional Norte do Paraná Registro CONEP 268</p>	
Parecer PF Nº 257/08 CAAE Nº 0247.0.268.000-08 FOLHA DE ROSTO Nº 229078	Londrina, 22 de maio de 2009.
PESQUISADOR: MARIA ANGELICA EHARA WATANABE PROPPG – Processo 36970 (cópia)	
Prezada Senhora: <p>O "Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa Envolvendo Seres Humanos da Universidade Estadual de Londrina/ Hospital Universitário Regional Norte do Paraná" (Registro CONEP 268) – de acordo com as orientações da Resolução 196/96 do Conselho Nacional de Saúde/MS e Resoluções Complementares, avaliou o projeto:</p> <p>"ANÁLISE 'IN VITRO' DA ATIVIDADE BIOLÓGICA DA PRÓPOLIS NA LEISHMANIOSE"</p>	
Situação do Projeto: APROVADO	
<p>Atenciosamente,</p> <p> Prof.ª Dra. Ester M.O. Dalja Costa Coordenadora Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa-CEP/UEL</p>	
<p><small> Campus Universitário: Rodovia Cadea Guarda C54 (PR-440), km 399 - Fone (043) 371-4000 FAX: - Fax 328-4440 - Caixa Postal 5.901 - CEP 59251-900 - Internet http://www.uel.br Hospital Universitário/ Centro de Ciências da Saúde: Av. Robert Koch, 66 - Vão Operário - Fone (043) 381-3000 FAX: - Fax 337-4841 e 337-7405 - Caixa Postal 791 - CEP 56030-440 LONDRINA - PARANÁ - BRASIL </small></p> <p><small>Form. Código 11.764 - Formato A4 (210x297mm)</small></p>	

1 APÊNDICE B - Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido (TCLE): Própolis
2

Ivete Conchon Costa-Maria Angelica E. Watanabe

1

TERMO DE CONSENTIMENTO LIVRE E ESCLARECIDO

PROJETO: ANÁLISE *IN VITRO* DA ATIVIDADE BIOLÓGICA DA PRÓPOLIS NA LEISHMANIOSE

A leishmaniose é uma doença que tem acometido muitos adultos e crianças. A doença aparece como uma lesão ulcerativa de bordas elevadas e indolor. Na nossa pesquisa utilizamos 5 ml de sangue das pessoas com leishmaniose para analisar as células do sangue na presença de estímulos como a própolis que pode influenciar na imunidade destas células. Assim, o paciente estará contribuindo para o conhecimento da ação da própolis o que pode auxiliar no tratamento desta doença. Informamos que não haverá risco ao participar deste projeto, apenas o incômodo da picada da agulha. Não haverá nenhuma despesa ao participara deste projeto, como também não haverá compensação financeira.

Em qualquer etapa do estudo, você terá acesso aos profissionais responsáveis pela pesquisa para esclarecimento de eventuais dúvidas. As professoras responsáveis são Profa. Dra. Maria Angelica Ehara Watanabe e Profa. Dra. Ivete Conchon Costa.

As informações obtidas serão analisadas no total das informações, juntamente com dados de outros pacientes, não sendo divulgada a identificação pessoal do paciente.

Acredito ter sido suficientemente informado a respeito deste projeto, e entendo que:

- 1- Com este estudo estarei contribuindo para o conhecimento da ação da própolis sobre o parasita que causa esta doença, o que pode vir a auxiliar no tratamento desta doença.
- 2- Minha participação consiste em doar 5 ml de sangue, não haverá risco ao participar deste projeto, apenas o incômodo da picada da agulha
- 3- Não sou obrigado a participar do projeto e posso sair do mesmo a qualquer momento.
- 4- O sigilo da minha participação será preservado.
- 5- Não terei nenhuma despesa ao participar desse estudo.

Londrina, ___ de _____ de

Nome do doador: _____ .

Assinatura do Doador: _____ .

Documento de identificação: _____ .

Endereço dos Coordenadores do Projeto:

Comitê de Ética

Depto. Ciências Patológicas – Telefone 3371-4267
Universidade Estadual de Londrina
Londrina-Paraná

Telefone: 3371-2490
(Quinta-feira – Manhã)

CEP: 86051-970 TEL/FAX: (43) 3371-57284

APÊNDICE C - Normas da revista

Manuscript Preparation

General guidelines

- All contributing authors of a manuscript should include their full name, affiliation, postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address on the cover page of the manuscript. One author should be identified as the corresponding author.
- For all manuscripts non-discriminatory (inclusive) language should be used.
- Authors are urged to be succinct, to use the minimum number of tables and figures necessary and to avoid repetition of information between these two media. Given the competition for space within the journal, the length of submission in relation to its likely contribution will be taken into account with regard to acceptability. Guidelines on length are provided below.
- The pages and lines of the manuscript must be numbered.

Ethical guidelines

- Authors should supply a conflict of interest statement with their submitted manuscript, detailing any financial or personal relationships that may bias their work, or a declaration that they have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
- Original research studies involving animals or human volunteers must include details of ethical approval. These should include:

- (a) the name of the Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee that approved the study and all protocols,
- (b) the date of this approval and
- (c) the number of the certification or document which verified approval of the study.

Identifying details of patients and study participants should be omitted. If identifying information is essential for scientific purposes, or if there is any doubt about the adequacy of the anonymity protection used, the patient (or parent/guardian) must give written informed consent for publication. Authors should provide this statement of informed consent upon submission of the manuscript.

- Manuscripts reporting randomised controlled trials should include a checklist and flowchart in accordance with the CONSORT Statement guidelines. The checklist should be submitted as a supplementary file, and the flowchart as a figure.
- Systematic reviews must be submitted together with a checklist and flowchart in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines. The checklist should be submitted as a supplementary file, and the flowchart as a figure.

The use of Natural Products

In studies that describe the use of natural products, the source organism must be authenticated by an expert and include reference to appropriate voucher specimens. All organisms must be validated taxonomically (in case of non-cultivated plant species <http://www.ipni.org/> or <http://www.theplantlist.org/> need to be used.

Chemical Composition of Extracts from Natural Products

All extracts from natural products should be fully characterised to ensure that full details of the chemical composition is known. For this purpose, separative methods (e.g. HPLC) following by structural elucidation methods are required (e.g. spectroscopy). Furthermore, an HPLC chromatograph should be included, where appropriate.

Language

Manuscripts are accepted only in English. Authors whose first language is not English are recommended to ask a native speaker to proofread their manuscript before submission. There are also a number of services that provide mentoring, advice and copyediting to support authors unfamiliar with writing academic research papers for

1 publication in international journals. Authors are encouraged to make use of services such as AuthorAID if
2 necessary.

4 **Format**

5 For ease of submission authors are welcome to submit new manuscripts in a single PDF file, in any format or
6 layout as long as the manuscript is complete and can be used by reviewers. If you are invited to revise your
7 manuscript, or if it is accepted, you will be asked to format your manuscript according to the journal layout style
8 described on this page.

9 **Original research papers**

10 Original research papers should not exceed 4000 words.

11 **Abstract**

- 12 • Structured abstracts are required for all papers and should include objectives, methods, key findings and
13 conclusions.
- 14 • Approximate length: 200 words

17 **Keywords**

- 18 • Three to six keywords should be supplied for all papers.

21 **Introduction**

- 22 • An introduction should provide a background to the study (appropriate for an international audience) and
23 should clearly state the specific aims of the study. Please ensure that any abbreviations and all symbols
24 used in equations are fully defined.
- 25 • Approximate length: 500-1000 words

28 **Materials and Methods**

- 29 • This section should describe the materials and methods used in sufficient detail to allow the study to be
30 replicated. Please include details of ethical approval in this section.
- 31 • Approximate length: 500-1000 words

34 **Results**

- 35 • This section should provide detailed response rates. It is essential to include statistical analyses or other
36 indicators to enable assessment of the variance of replicates of the experiments. Data should not be
37 repeated in figures and tables.
- 38 • Approximate length: 1000-1500 words

41 **Discussion**

- 42 • The discussion section should summarise the main findings of the study, followed by a critique of the
43 strengths and limitations of the research. The results should then be discussed in the context of international
44 published literature and the contribution made to the field. Any policy limitations should be included.
- 45 • Approximate length: 1000 words

48 **Conclusions**

- 49 • A brief conclusions section should summarise the salient findings of the study. Authors are strongly
50 advised to emphasise the contribution made to the field by their study in this section.
- 51 • Approximate length: 200 words

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3 **Tables**

- 4 • Please keep the number of tables to a minimum.
5 • Tables should be numbered consecutively (Table 1, Table 2 etc) and each table must start on a separate
6 page at the end of the manuscript.
7 • Each table must have a title. Each table legend, in paragraph form, should briefly describe the content
8 and define any abbreviations used. If values are cited in a table, the unit of measurement must be stated.
9 • Tables should not be ruled.
10
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12 **Figures**

- 13 • Please keep the number of figures to a minimum.
14 • Each figure must have a title. Each figure legend, in paragraph form, should briefly describe the content
15 and define any abbreviations used. If values are cited in a figure, the unit of measurement must be stated.
16 Graphs must have clearly labelled axes. A key may be included if appropriate.
17 • It is in the author's interest to provide the highest quality figure format possible. Please be sure that all
18 imported scanned material is scanned at the appropriate resolution: 1200 dpi for line art, 600 dpi for
19 grayscale and 300 dpi for colour.
20 • Files should be saved as one of the following formats: TIFF (tagged image file format), PostScript or
21 EPS (encapsulated PostScript), and should contain all the necessary font information and the source file of
22 the application (e.g. CorelDraw/Mac, CorelDraw/PC).
23 • Figures must be saved separate to text. Please do not embed figures in the paper file. The manuscript
24 should indicate the position of the figures (e.g. see Figure 1) and all figures should be numbered
25 consecutively in the order in which they appear in the paper. In multi-part figures, each part should be
26 labelled (e.g. Figure 1(a), Figure 1(b)). The filename for a graphic should be descriptive of the graphic, e.g.
27 Figure1, Figure2a.
28 • Authors must complete a Colour Work Agreement Form for any colour figures requiring payment. The
29 form can be downloaded as a PDF* (portable document format) file from the home page. Completed forms
30 must be sent by post/mail to: *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, European
31 Distribution Centre, New Era Estate, Oldlands Way, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 9NQ. Authors
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34 at the Editor's discretion. *To read PDF files, you must have Acrobat Reader installed.
35
36

37 **Acknowledgements and Funding**

- 38 • Funding acknowledgements should be written in the following form: "This work was supported by the
39 Medical Research Council [grant number xxx]"
40 • If the research has not been funded by any specific project grant, please include the statement: "This
41 research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit
42 sectors"
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45 **References**

- 46 • References in the text are cited sequentially by number. All citations in the text must appear in the
47 reference list and vice versa. The only exceptions to this are manuscripts not yet in press or published
48 online, papers reported at meetings, or personal communications – these should be cited only in the text,
49 not as a formal reference. Authors should get permission from the source to cite personal communications
50 or unpublished work.
51 • At the end of the manuscript, references should be listed in numerical order as they appear in the text.
52 Serial titles should be abbreviated in accordance with the standard approved abbreviations used by PubMed
53 or BIOSIS. One-word titles are never abbreviated. Article identifiers, such as the Digital Object Identifier
54 (DOI) or PubMed Unique Identifier (PMID), may be included as appropriate. State the references according
55 to the format of the following examples:
56

57 **Journal references**

58 One author:

59 Szeto HH. Simultaneous determination of meperidine and normeperidine in biofluids. *J Chromatogr* 1976; 125:
60 503–510.

- 1 Two authors:
 2 Vu-Duc T, Vernay A. Simultaneous detection and quantitation of O6-monoacetylmorphine, morphine and codeine
 3 in urine by gas chromatography with nitrogen specific and/or flame ionization detection. *Biomed*
 4 *Chromatogr* 1990; 4(2): 65–69.
 5
- 6 Three or more authors: Huestis MA et al. Monitoring opiate use in substance abuse treatment patients with sweat
 7 and urine drug testing. *J Anal Toxicol* 2000; 4(Suppl.3): 509–521.
 8 Article in press:
 9 Ladines CA et al. Impaired renal D1-like and D2-like dopamine receptor interaction in the spontaneously
 10 hypertensive rat. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol* 2008 (in press).
 11 Electronic publication ahead of print:
 12 Teeuwen PHE. Doppler-guided intra-operative fluid management during major abdominal surgery: a systematic
 13 review and meta-analysis. *Int J Clin Pract* (accessed 21 November 2007, epub ahead of print).
 14 Online serial:
 15 Margolis PA et al. From concept to application: the impact of a community-wide intervention to improve the
 16 delivery of preventive services to children. *Pediatrics* [online] 2001; 108:e42.
 17 www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/108/3/e42 (accessed 20 September 2001).
- 18 Corporate author:
 19 The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand . Clinical exercise stress testing. Safety and performance
 20 guidelines. *Med J Aust* 1996; 164: 282–284.
 21 Anonymous author:
 22 Anon. Coffee drinking and cancer of the pancreas. *BMJ* 1981; 283: 628.
 23 Author with prefix and/or suffix in their name:
 24 Humphreys Jnr, Sir Robert and Adams T. Reference style in the modern age. *J Bib Cit* 2008; 1: 1–10.
 25 Article not in English:
 26 Sokolov S et al. [Studies of neurotropic activity of new compounds isolated from *Rhodiola rosea* L.] Khim Farm Zh
 27 1985; 19: 1367–1371 [in Russian].
- 28 **Book references**
- 29 Book by a single author or group of authors working together as a single author:
 30 Cole MD, Caddy B. *The Analysis of Drugs of Abuse: An instruction manual*, 2nd edn. New York : Ellis Horwood,
 31 1995.
 32 An edited book:
 33 Hoepfner E et al. eds. *Fiedler Encyclopedia of Excipients for Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics and Related Areas*, 5th
 34 edn. Aulendorf: Editio Cantor Verlag, 2002.
 35 An article in an edited book:
 36 Sanders PA. Aerosol packaging of pharmaceuticals. In: Banker GS, Rhodes CT , eds. *Modern Pharmaceutics*.
 37 New York : Marcel Dekker, 1979: 591–626.
 38 A book in a series:
 39 Scott RPW. Chromatographic Detectors – *Design, Function, and Operation*. Chromatographic Science Series, 73,
 40 Cazes J, ed. New York : Merceel Dekker, 1966.
- 41 **Other references**
- 42 Article in conference proceedings:
 43 Dumasia MC et al. LC/MS analysis of intact steroid conjugates: a preliminary study on the quantification of
 44 testosterone sulphate in equine urine. In: Auer DE, Houghton E, eds. *Proceedings of the 11th International*

- 1 *Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians*. Newmarket : R & W Publications (Newmarket), 1966: 188–
- 2 194.
- 3 Standard:
- 4 ISO 9002. *Quality Systems – Model for Quality Assurance in Production, Installation and Servicing Quality*
- 5 *Management System*. Geneva : ISO, 1994.
- 6 Offline database or publication:
- 7 *Dictionary of Natural Products*. CD-ROM. London : Chapman & Hall/CRC, 2003.
- 8 Milazzo S et al. Laetrile treatment for cancer. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, issue 2. London :
- 9 Macmillan, 2006.
- 10 Dissertation:
- 11 Youssef NM . School adjustment of children with congenital heart disease. Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania : University
- 12 of Pittsburgh , 1988 (dissertation).

APÊNDICE D - Submissão do artigo

04/06/2015
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Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

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Manuscript ID	Manuscript Title	Date Created	Date Submitted	Status
JPP-15-0369	Brazilian propolis modulates Leishmania-infected human mononuclear cells in vitro [View Submission]	03-Jun-2015	04-Jun-2015	EIC: Jones, David ADM: Gabroning, Shenna Marie * Under Review

[top](#)

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jppharm#refX>
1/2

1

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 Ana Paula Fortes dos Santos Thomazelli <afortes90@gmail.com>

Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology - Account Created in ScholarOne Manuscripts [email ref: SE-4-a]
1 mensagem

JPPedoffice@wiley.com <JPPedoffice@wiley.com> 4 de junho de 2015 01:34
Para: afortes90@gmail.com

04-Jun-2015

Dear Miss Thomazelli:

A manuscript titled Brazilian propolis modulates Leishmania-infected human mononuclear cells in vitro (JPP-15-0369) has been submitted by Miss Ana Paula Thomazelli to Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

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