



UNIVERSIDADE  
ESTADUAL DE LONDRINA

---

ISABELE KAZAHAYA BORGES

**DETECÇÃO DA INFECÇÃO POR *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*  
POR MEIO DE PCR-ELISA E ELISA COM ANTÍGENOS  
RECOMBINANTE RGP43 E SINTÉTICO E REATIVIDADE À  
rGp43 NA LEISHMANIOSE HUMANA**

ISABELE KAZAHAYA BORGES

**DETECÇÃO DA INFECÇÃO POR *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*  
POR MEIO DE PCR-ELISA E ELISA COM ANTÍGENOS  
RECOMBINANTE RGP43 E SINTÉTICO E REATIVIDADE À  
rGp43 NA LEISHMANIOSE HUMANA**

Tese apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Patologia Experimental da Universidade Estadual de Londrina como requisito para obtenção do título de Doutor.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Mario Augusto Ono.

Londrina  
2016

ISABELE KAZAHAYA BORGES

**DETECÇÃO DA INFECÇÃO POR *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*  
POR MEIO DE PCR-ELISA E ELISA COM ANTÍGENOS  
RECOMBINANTE RGP43 E SINTÉTICO E REATIVIDADE À  
rGp43 NA LEISHMANIOSE HUMANA**

Tese apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Patologia Experimental da Universidade Estadual de Londrina como requisito para obtenção do título de Doutor.

**BANCA EXAMINADORA**

---

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Mario Augusto Ono  
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

---

Prof.<sup>a</sup>. Dr.<sup>a</sup>. Márcia Cristina Furlaneto  
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

---

Prof.<sup>a</sup>. Dr.<sup>a</sup>. Daniele Sartori  
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

---

Prof.<sup>a</sup>. Dr.<sup>a</sup>. Maria Angelica Ehara Watanabe  
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

---

Prof.<sup>a</sup>. Dr.<sup>a</sup>. Eiko Nakagawa Itano  
Universidade Estadual de Londrina - UEL

Londrina, 31 de maio de 2016

Este trabalho foi realizado no Laboratório de Imunologia Animal do Departamento de Ciências Patológicas do Centro de Ciências Biológicas da Universidade Estadual de Londrina sob orientação do Prof. Dr. Mario Augusto Ono e contou com o apoio do Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) e Fundação Araucária.

*Ao meu afilhado e primo Alexandre,  
que apesar das limitações e da pouca idade,  
sempre se mostrou forte, e me encoraja  
diariamente a perseverar.*

## **AGRADECIMENTOS**

Agradeço à Providência Divina por sempre guiar meu caminho.

Ao meu orientador Prof. Dr. Mario Augusto Ono que me recebeu e acolheu em seu laboratório desde o mestrado. Obrigada por todo ensinamento, dedicação e correções.

À Profa. Dra. Eiko Nakagawa Itano e Profa. Dra. Maria Angélica Ehara Watanabe por aceitarem participar da banca de qualificação e de defesa e pelas valiosas contribuições para este trabalho. E às Profa. Dra. Daniele Sartori e Profa. Dra. Márcia Cristina Furlaneto por aceitarem participar da banca de defesa e pelas contribuições.

Aos Professores do Programa de Pós Graduação em Patologia Experimental pelos ensinamentos e também às Professoras Eliana Carolina Vespero, Helena Kaminami Morimoto e Regina Borsato Quesada, pelo fornecimento das amostras e especialmente à Professora Sandra Regina Quintal Carvalho por todo ensinamento, incentivo, acolhimento, amizade e bom exemplo.

À Dra. Carolina Batista Ariza por toda ajuda dentro e fora do laboratório, sempre disposta, tirando dúvidas, compartilhando conhecimento e amizade.

Aos meus colegas de laboratório, Aline Myuki Omori, Donizete Belitardo, Gabriela Gonçalves de Oliveira, Giovana Gomes de Carvalho, Igor Massahiro Suguiura, Mônica Sbeghen, Rafaela Macagnan, Tatiane Ferreira Petroni, Tiago Zaninelli e os estagiários de Iniciação científica que por aqui passaram, obrigada pelos bons momentos e auxílio com os experimentos.

Aos técnicos de laboratório, Nilson de Jesus Carlos, Vânia D'Arc e D. Irene por toda colaboração e apoio técnico.

Aos colegas dos laboratórios deste departamento, em especial ao Laboratório de Estudos e Aplicações de Polimorfismos e ao Laboratório de Imunologia Humana pelo apoio, auxílio e amizade.

Aos secretários do departamento de Patologia e da secretaria de pós-graduação em Patologia Experimental por seus préstimos e gentileza no atendimento.

Ao Programa de Pós Graduação em Patologia Experimental pelo incentivo à pesquisa e apoio institucional. À Fundação Araucária pelo apoio financeiro para desenvolvimento deste estudo e CAPES pela concessão da bolsa sem a qual não

poderia ter realizado este trabalho.

À minha Mãe, Sueli Midori Kazahaya que sempre me apoiou, incentivou, financiou, cuidou, confiou, sacrificou-se. Obrigada, mãe! E aos meus avós, Kanemitsuhashi Kazahaya (*in memorian*) e Nakamura Kajuio Kazahaya que são essenciais, especiais, únicos.

Aos meus familiares pelo apoio e carinho. Sem esquecer a turminha que aumenta a cada ano, meus sobrinhos do coração: Beatriz, Luis Felipe, Alexandre, Luisa e João Pedro que me mostram a alegria nas pequenas coisas.

Às minhas amigas de longa data Hellen Cristina Romagnolo Pereira, Ligia Sabóia Marcondes, Nádia Diez Megid Maggi, Simone Darrel e Vanessa Moraes de Lacerda. E às que fui apresentada durante a pós-graduação, Tatiana Mozer Joaquim e Eliane Longhi Barroso.

Aos amigos da 53<sup>a</sup> turma de Farmácia da Universidade Estadual de Londrina, minha turma da graduação, pelas palavras no momento de desespero, mesmo separados por quilômetros estamos unidos pelas redes sociais. Especialmente, Astréa Estela de Sousa, Raquel de Oliveira Vilhena por toda ajuda, companhia, amizade e Andréia Bottega Nogari (*in memorian*), que um ano atrás nos reuniu, nos fez refletir o quão frágil é a vida e o quanto devemos aproveitar o momento.

Sem esquecer de agradecer àqueles que tornam o aprendizado prazeroso, intenso e desafiador: meus alunos do curso de Farmácia, Enfermagem, Fisioterapia do Instituto de Ensino Superior de Londrina (Inesul) e alunos de Biomedicina e Nutrição do Centro Universitário Católica de Santa Catarina. Agradeço também às instituições de ensino, aos novos colegas e à nova cidade pela acolhida.

A todos aqueles que contribuíram, direta ou indiretamente, para a conclusão desta tese, muito obrigada.

*“Por vezes sentimos que aquilo  
que fazemos não é senão uma  
gota de água no mar. Mas o  
mar seria menor se lhe  
faltasse uma gota”.*

*Madre Teresa de Calcutá*

Borges, Isabele Kazahaya. **Detecção da infecção por *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* por meio de PCR-ELISA e ELISA com antígenos recombinante rGp43 e sintético e reatividade à rGp43 na leishmaniose humana.** 2016. 52 f. Tese (Doutorado em Patologia Experimental) – Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, 2016.

## RESUMO

A paracoccidioidomicose (PCM), causada pelo fungo *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, é uma micose sistêmica, endêmica na América Latina. O diagnóstico da PCM apresenta dificuldades como reatividade cruzada com outras micoses sistêmicas como a histoplasmose ou doenças parasitárias como a leishmaniose. Adicionalmente, PCM e leishmaniose são doenças que compartilham as mesmas áreas endêmicas. Este estudo teve como objetivos desenvolver métodos de detecção da infecção por *P. brasiliensis* por meio de PCR-ELISA e ELISA baseado em antígenos recombinante e sintéticos e avaliar anticorpos contra *P. brasiliensis* em indivíduos soropositivos e soronegativos para leishmaniose. Embora a glicoproteína 43 kDa (gp43) de *P. brasiliensis* seja o antígeno mais utilizado no imunodiagnóstico da PCM, podem ocorrer reações cruzadas devido principalmente a epítomos carboidrato. A gp43 recombinante produzida em *Escherichia coli* não é glicosilada e, portanto, pode contribuir para a redução das reações cruzadas. Os peptídeos sintéticos baseados na sequência da gp43 também constituem uma alternativa interessante, pois apresentam vantagens como baixo custo de produção, altas sensibilidade e especificidade. Amostras de soro humano positivas (n=20) e negativas (n=22) na imunodifusão com exoantígeno de *P. brasiliensis* foram analisadas por ELISA utilizando gp43 recombinante (rGp43) e peptídeo sintético como antígenos, respectivamente. Todas as amostras positivas na imunodifusão também foram positivas para a rGp43 enquanto 75% das amostras foram positivas no ELISA com peptídeo sintético. As amostras negativas na imunodifusão apresentaram positividade no ELISA com rGp43 e peptídeo sintético de 36,4% e 40,9%, respectivamente. Técnicas de biologia molecular também podem contribuir para o diagnóstico preciso e rápido da PCM. Uma amostra de escarro (negativa para *P. brasiliensis* por *Nested-PCR*) foi inoculada com células de *P. brasiliensis* diluídas em série (10 a 10<sup>5</sup> células/mL) e o DNA foi extraído e amplificado por *Nested-PCR*. O produto da amplificação foi analisado por eletroforese em gel de poliacrilamida e por PCR-ELISA e ambas as formas de detecção permitiram a detecção de baixa quantidade de DNA, embora a PCR-ELISA tenha permitido a análise em menor tempo. Amostras de soro humano soropositivas (n=14) e soronegativas (n=39) para leishmaniose foram analisadas por ELISA e imunodifusão utilizando gp43 recombinante e exoantígeno, respectivamente. As amostras soropositivas e soronegativas para leishmaniose apresentaram positividade para rGp43 de 64,3% e 53,8%, e a diferença não foi significativa. O ELISA baseado em rGp43 e peptídeo sintético, bem como a PCR-ELISA, constituem alternativas promissoras para a detecção da infecção por *P. brasiliensis*.

**Palavras-chaves:** Imunodiagnóstico. Micose sistêmica. Paracoccidioidomicose.

Borges, Isabele Kazahaya. ***Detection of Paracoccidioides brasiliensis infection by PCR-ELISA and ELISA based in recombinant rGp43 and synthetic antigens and reactivity with rGp43 in human leishmaniasis.*** 2016. 52 p. Thesis (Doctoral Degree in Experimental Pathology) – Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, 2016.

## ABSTRACT

Paracoccidioidomycosis (PCM) caused by *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* is a systemic mycosis, endemic in Latin America. The diagnosis of this mycosis can be difficult due to cross reaction with other systemic fungal infections such as histoplasmosis or parasitic diseases such as leishmaniasis. In addition, PCM and leishmaniasis share the same endemic areas. The aims of this study were to develop methods for detection *P. brasiliensis* infection by PCR-ELISA and ELISA based on recombinant and synthetic antigens and evaluation of antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* in individuals seropositive and seronegative for leishmaniasis. Although the glycoprotein 43 kDa (gp43) of *P. brasiliensis* is a useful antigen for immunodiagnosis of PCM, cross-reaction with other antigens may occur due to carbohydrate epitopes. The use of non-glycosylated gp43 recombinant produced in *Escherichia coli*, can reduce cross-reactivity. Use of synthetic peptides, based in the sequence of gp43, is another interesting alternative due to low production cost, high sensitivity and specificity. Human serum samples, positive (n = 20) and negative (n = 22) for *P. brasiliensis* in immunodiffusion were analyzed by ELISA using recombinant gp43 (rGp43) and synthetic peptide as antigens, respectively. All the positive samples in immunodiffusion were positive by ELISA with rGp43 although 75% were positive in ELISA with synthetic peptide. Negative samples in immunodiffusion showed 36.4% positivity in ELISA with rGp43 and 40.9% in ELISA with synthetic peptide. Molecular techniques can also contribute for accurate and rapid diagnosis of PCM. A sputum sample (negative for *P. brasiliensis* by PCR) was inoculated with *P. brasiliensis* cells serially diluted in phosphate saline buffer (10 to 10<sup>5</sup> cells/ml) and the DNA was extracted and amplified by Nested-PCR. The product of the amplification was analyzed by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and PCR-ELISA and both tests detected low amounts of DNA, although analysis by PCR-ELISA was realized in shorter time. Human serum samples positive (n=14) and negative (n=39) for leishmaniasis were analyzed by ELISA and Immunodiffusion using rGp43 and *P. brasiliensis* exoantigen, respectively. The positive and negative serum samples for leishmaniasis showed 64.3% and 53.8% of positivity for rGp43 with no statistical significance. The ELISA based in rGp43 and synthetic peptide as well as PCR-ELISA, are promising new approaches for the detection of *P. brasiliensis* infection.

**Keywords:** Immunodiagnosics. Systemic mycosis. Paracoccidioidomycosis.

## LISTA DE FIGURAS

### **Detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* by ELISA based on recombinant gp43 and synthetic peptides**

**Figure 1.** Reactivity serum samples positive and negative to Gp43 against five synthetic peptides evaluated by ELISA .....30

### **Detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in sputum by PCR-ELISA**

**Figure 1.** Detection of *P. brasiliensis* by Nested-PCR in sputum samples spiked with  $10$  to  $10^5$  cells of *P. brasiliensis* B-339. The Nested-PCR products were analyzed by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis with silver nitrate staining. 1. Ladder 100 bp; 2.  $10^5$  cells/mL; 3.  $10^4$  cells/mL; 4.  $10^3$  cells; 5.  $10^2$  cells/mL; 6. 10 cells; 7. Blank.....38

**Figure 2.** Detection of *P. brasiliensis* by PCR-ELISA in sputum samples spiked with  $10$  to  $10^5$  cells of *P. brasiliensis* B-339. The results are expressed as absorbance values .....39

### **Detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in individuals seropositive and seronegative for leishmaniasis**

**Figure 1.** Map showing location of Araçatuba municipality in São Paulo State, Southeast Brazil .....44

**Figure 2.** Correlation between reactivity against rGp43 (absorbance) and *Leishmania* antigens (reciprocal of immunofluorescence titers) in serum samples positive for leishmaniasis.....47

## LISTA DE TABELAS

### **Detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* by ELISA based on recombinant gp43 and synthetic peptides**

<b>Table 1.</b> Reactivity of serum samples to <i>P. brasiliensis</i> antigens evaluated by immunodiffusion test and ELISA .....	31
--	----

### **Detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in sputum by PCR-ELISA**

<b>Table 1.</b> PCR primers and hybridization capture probe for Pb genes .....	37
--	----

### **Detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in individuals seropositive and seronegative for leishmaniasis**

<b>Table 1.</b> Reactivity against <i>P. brasiliensis</i> by ELISA (rGp43) and immunodiffusion (exoantigen) in human serum samples positive and negative for leishmaniasis.....	46
---	----

<b>Table 2.</b> Positivity to rGp43 in human serum samples evaluated by ELISA, according to gender and age .....	46
--	----

## LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

°C	graus Celsius
bp	pares de base
DAB	3-3'-diaminobenzidina
DNA	ácido desoxirribonucleico
dNTPs	dioxinucleotídeos trifosfatados
D.O	densidade óptica
ELISA	ensaio imunoenzimático
gp43	glicoproteína de 43kDa
h	horas
HIV	vírus da imunodeficiência humana
ID	Imunodifusão
KDa	quilodaltons
L	litros
M	molar
min	minutos
mL	mililitros
mM	milimolar
nm	nanômetros
PBS-T	tampão fosfato salino Tween 20 0,05%
PCM	Paracoccidioidomicose
PCR	reação em cadeia da polimerase
qPCR	reação em cadeia da polimerase em tempo real
PCR-ELISA	reação em cadeia da polimerase-ensaio imunoenzimático
rGp43	glicoproteína de 43kDa recombinante
RIBA	Teste <i>immunoblot</i> recombinante
SIDA	Síndrome da imunodeficiência adquirida
SDS	dodecil sulfato de sódio
SDS-PAGE	gel de poli(acrilamida) com dodecil sulfato de sódio
seg	segundos
V	volts
µg	microgramas
µL	microlitros

## SUMÁRIO

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUÇÃO</b> .....	17
<b>2</b>	<b>OBJETIVO</b> .....	21
2.1	OBJETIVO GERAL.....	21
2.2	OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS .....	21
<b>3</b>	<b>REFERÊNCIAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS</b> .....	22
<b>4</b>	<b>ARTIGOS CIENTÍFICOS</b> .....	28
	DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST <i>PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS</i> BY ELISA BASED ON RECOMBINANT GP43 AND SYNTHETIC PEPTIDES.....	28
	DETECTION OF <i>PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS</i> IN SPUTUM BY PCR-ELISA .....	35
	DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST <i>PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS</i> IN INDIVIDUALS SEROPOSITIVE AND SERONEGATIVE FOR LEISHMANIASIS.....	42
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSÃO</b> .....	52

## 1 INTRODUÇÃO

*Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* é um fungo termodimórfico, que se apresenta na forma de micélio a 25°C e como levedura a 37°C, em tecidos infectados e *in vitro*. A forma micelial é formada por células cilíndricas com ramificações (hifas) as quais se apresentam como estruturas multicelulares, finas e septadas. A estrutura leveduriforme é arredondada com múltiplos brotamentos a qual foi denominada em como “roda de leme” (FURTADO et al., 1967; SAN BLAS, 1985; SAN BLAS et al., 2002).

A paracoccidioidomicose (PCM) foi descrita pela primeira vez por Adolpho Lutz em 1908. É uma micose sistêmica, endêmica em vários países da América Latina. O Brasil é o país com maior número de casos, principalmente nas regiões sul, sudeste e centro-oeste (FONSECA et al, 1999; WANKE, 1999; MOREIRA, 2008; BOCCA et al., 2013). Teixeira e colaboradores (2009) identificaram um isolado genotipicamente semelhante ao Pb01 com algumas divergências morfológicas o qual foi denominado “Pb01-like” e posteriormente, caracterizado como uma nova espécie, *Paracoccidioides lutzii*, em homenagem a Adolpho Lutz.

O termo PCM foi instituído na reunião de micologistas das Américas em 1971, porém essa micose já foi denominada blastomicose sul-americana, blastomicose brasileira, micose de Lutz, moléstia de Lutz-Splendore-Almeida, doença de Lutz (BATISTA et al., 2001).

A PCM pode ser classificada como PCM-infecção que ocorre pela inalação de propágulos do fungo, provavelmente originários do solo (BRUMMER et al., 1993) e é caracterizada por acometer indivíduos que apresentam positividade em testes cutâneos frente à paracoccidioidina, mas não apresentam sinais de doença, de ambos os sexos, que em algum momento residiram (ou continuam residindo) em áreas endêmicas a PCM. A imunidade celular nestes indivíduos geralmente está preservada e a infecção pode ser evidenciada por reações intradérmicas (FRANCO et al, 1986) ou sorológicas (ONO et al., 2001; BOTTEON et al., 2002).

A PCM-infecção pode evoluir para a PCM-doença na forma aguda, que acomete crianças e adolescentes ou, forma crônica após longo período de latência. A forma crônica é mais comum e afeta principalmente homens, adultos, tabagistas, etilistas crônicos, trabalhadores rurais em alguma fase da vida (SAN-BLAS; NIÑO-VEGA, 2008). Desenvolve-se na forma de doença pulmonar, podendo se disseminar

pela via linfática ou sanguínea para outros órgãos ocasionando lesões nas mucosas, linfonodos, pele e glândulas adrenais (FRANCO, 1986; BLOTTA; CAMARGO, 1993; CAMARGO et al., 2000; DINIZ et al., 2002; SHIKANAI-YASUDA et al., 2006).

Pacientes com PCM podem apresentar outras doenças associadas como tuberculose, carcinoma, enteroparasitoses, infecções pulmonares, Síndrome da imunodeficiência adquirida (SIDA), leishmaniose, hanseníase, doença de Chagas e outras micoses (ALMEIDA, 2007) o que dificulta um diagnóstico preciso e rápido.

A PCM possui um envolvimento pulmonar e cutâneo mais frequente, podendo o paciente queixar-se de insônia, tosse, inapetência, febre, perda de peso, prurido, ardor (GIOVANI et al., 2000). A radiografia do tórax mostra um infiltrado nodular ou intersticial com fibrose dos lobos pulmonares médio e inferior (ARCHENBACH et al., 2002). Há o aparecimento frequente de lesões no lábio, bochecha, língua e assoalho bucal, portanto, o conhecimento da PCM pelo cirurgião dentista pode auxiliar no diagnóstico da infecção (CERRI et al., 1998).

O diagnóstico pode ser feito através da biopsia das lesões onde se visualiza um granuloma com células gigantes e blastósporos. Utilizam-se colorações Grocott-Gomori (nitrato de prata metenamina) e ácido periódico-Schiff para evidenciar o fungo (BICALHO et al., 2001). O isolamento do fungo também pode ser realizado, porém há o inconveniente do fungo crescer lentamente e ser diagnosticado tardiamente, em estágios mais avançados da doença (ALMEIDA, 2007).

Métodos sorológicos, como a Imunodifusão, método adotado nos hospitais de referência, ELISA e *Western Blot* (PUCCIA et al., 1986; COSTA et al., 2010), são utilizados no diagnóstico e no acompanhamento de pacientes com PCM em tratamento (PUCCIA et al., 1986; DINIZ et al., 2002).

Inicialmente foi descrito por Fava-Netto (1961) o antígeno polissacarídico de *P. brasiliensis*. Em seguida, foi introduzido o exoantígeno, antígeno bruto, solúvel, que contém antígenos glicoprotéicos de *P. brasiliensis*. Porém, as diferenças existentes na produção do exoantígeno como meio de cultura, cepa do fungo, tempo de incubação e quantidade do inóculo dificultam a sua padronização (CAMARGO et al, 1988; TABORDA; CAMARGO, 1994; CAMARGO; FRANCO, 2000).

A glicoproteína de 43 kDa (gp43), componente do exoantígeno, é considerada o principal e mais utilizado antígeno no imunodiagnóstico da PCM (PUCCIA et al, 1986; MENDES-GIANINI et al, 1990, MARQUES DA SILVA et al., 2003) porém, podem ocorrer reações cruzadas com outras micoses sistêmicas causadas por

*Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis* e *Coccidioides immitis* provavelmente devido a sua porção carboidrato (PUCCIA; TRAVASSOS, 1991; BLOTTA et al., 1999; GIOVANI et al., 2000; BICALHO et al., 2001).

Na tentativa de produzir um antígeno homogêneo para utilizar em diferentes testes e diferentes laboratórios, vários grupos tentaram clonar, expressar e purificar a gp43 recombinante (TABA et al., 1989; CISALPINO et al., 1996) pois além da facilidade em produzir esse antígeno em larga escala, essa proteína sem a porção carboidrato, contribuiria para reduzir a reatividade cruzada com outros patógenos (PUCCIA; TRAVASSOS, 1991).

A utilização dos peptídeos sintéticos no imunodiagnóstico da PCM também constitui uma alternativa atraente. A seleção de epítomos capazes de induzir uma resposta humoral pode ser suficiente para detecção da PCM em testes imunológicos (CALDINI et al., 2012). Os peptídeos sintéticos são desenhados a partir das sequências de aminoácidos das proteínas potencialmente antigênicas e podem ser produzidos em grandes quantidades com custo relativamente baixo. Portanto, são considerados reprodutíveis, confiáveis e econômicos, ou seja, a síntese de peptídeos é vista como um grande potencial para obtenção de antígenos úteis nos ensaios sorológicos, especialmente o ELISA (GONZÁLES et al., 1997; FERRER et al., 2003).

Apesar de a PCM ser uma doença inflamatória que responde à terapia com anfotericina B, sulfadiazínicos e o grupo das drogas azólicas (MARTINEZ, 2004), a erradicação do fungo nos tecidos é lenta e os doentes devem ser examinados periodicamente para avaliar a regressão dos sintomas e desaparecimento das lesões ativas (PALMEIRO et al., 2005).

Esse tratamento demorado não tem, muitas vezes, a adesão dos pacientes o que os torna mais susceptíveis a sequelas graves ou evolução a óbito. Contudo, o diagnóstico dessa enfermidade é de extrema importância assim como a atenção dos profissionais para as manifestações clínicas da PCM (MARTINEZ, 2004).

Devido a esses motivos somados com a SIDA e outras condições imunossupressoras, tornou-se necessário o desenvolvimento urgente de novos métodos de diagnósticos, mais econômicos, rápidos, sensíveis e específicos para a detecção da PCM e outras doenças sistêmicas e oportunistas em humanos. Imunoensaios como o ELISA são passíveis de automação, mas podem apresentar reatividade cruzada com outros patógenos. Técnicas que envolvem o diagnóstico

molecular como a reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR) seguida de hibridização, aumentam a detecção específica de patógenos e podem contribuir inclusive para estudos epidemiológicos de doenças de notificação não obrigatória (TELLES E MARTINS, 2011).

A PCR-ELISA é um método de imunodeteção que pode quantificar diretamente o produto de PCR após a imobilização de DNA biotilado na microplaca. Este método detecta ácido nucléico no lugar da proteína pelo ELISA convencional, é mais sensível que PCR convencional, com menor tempo de análise e baixo limite de detecção (DI PINTO et al., 2012; SUE et al., 2014). Portanto, a PCR-ELISA elimina a etapa de eletroforese, apresenta a facilidade de o resultado ser obtido por leitura por espectrofotometria (ZHANG et al., 2000).

A paracoccidiodomicose e a leishmaniose compartilham as mesmas regiões endêmicas, além das lesões de fossas nasais, orais e cutâneas serem bastante semelhantes. Portanto, o diagnóstico diferencial entre essas patologias é de grande importância (MENDES-GIANNINI et al., 2001). Casos de co-infecção entre essas duas patologias foram observados por Silveira e colaboradores (2006) quando analisaram 836 amostras de cães positivos e negativos para leishmaniose provenientes de Campo Grande-MS e 79,9% das amostras positivas para leishmaniose foram positivas no ELISA com gp43. A resistência à infecção por *P. brasiliensis* e *Leishmania* está associada à resposta imune do tipo Th1, portanto, indivíduos com leishmaniose poderiam estar mais susceptíveis ao desenvolvimento da paracoccidiodomicose (KASHINO et al., 2000; LEMESRE et al., 2005).

## 2 OBJETIVOS

### 2.1. OBJETIVO GERAL

Desenvolver métodos para detecção da infecção por *P. brasiliensis* por meio de ELISA baseado em antígenos recombinantes e sintéticos e PCR-ELISA e avaliar a reatividade de soros positivos para leishmaniose com antígenos de *P. brasiliensis*.

### 2.2. OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

- Avaliar a utilização de gp43 recombinante e peptídeos sintéticos baseados na sequência da gp43 para detecção de anticorpos anti-*P. brasiliensis*.
- Padronizar a reação de PCR-ELISA para a detecção de *P. brasiliensis* em escarro.
- Comparar a detecção de *P. brasiliensis* em escarro por meio de *nested*-PCR e PCR-ELISA.
- Avaliar a reatividade de soros humanos positivos e negativos para Leishmaniose com gp43 recombinante e exoantígeno de *P. brasiliensis*.

### 3 REFERÊNCIAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS

ALMEIDA, A. J. R. Cellular and molecular studies on the dimorphic pathogenic fungus *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, PhD Thesis, University of Minho, Portugal, 2007.

ACHENBACH, R.; NEGRONI, R.; KHASKI, S; et al. Paracoccidioidomycosis: unusual clinical presentation and utility of computerized tomography scanning for diagnosis. **International journal of dermatology**, v. 41, n. 12, p. 881-882, 2002.

BATISTA, R. S.; IGREJA, R. P.; GOMES, A. D.; HUGGINS, D. W.; Medicina Tropical: abordagem atual das doenças infecciosas e parasitárias. In: **Medicina tropical: Abordagem atual das doenças infecciosas e parasitárias**. Cultura Médica, 2001.

BICALHO, R. N.; ESPÍRITO SANTO, M. F.; AGUIAR, M. C. F.; et al.. Oral paracoccidioidomycosis: A retrospective study of 62 Brazilian patients. **Oral diseases**, v. 7, n. 1, p. 56-60, 2001.

BLOTTA, M. H.; CAMARGO, Z. P. Immunological response to cell-free antigens of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: relationship with clinical forms of paracoccidioidomycosis. **Journal of clinical microbiology**, v. 31, n. 3, p. 671-676, 1993.

BLOTTA, M. H.; MAMONI, R. L.; OLIVEIRA, S. J.; et al.. Endemic regions of paracoccidioidomycosis in Brazil: a clinical and epidemiologic study of 584 cases in the southeast region. **The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene**, v. 61, n. 3, p. 390-394, 1999.

BOCCA, Anamelia Lorenzetti; AMARAL, A. C.; TEIXEIRA, M. M.; SATO, P.; SHIKANAI-YASUDA, M. A.; et al.. Paracoccidioidomycosis: eco-epidemiology, taxonomy and clinical and therapeutic issues. **Future microbiology**, v. 8, n. 9, p. 1177-1191, 2013.

BOTTEON, F. A. G.; CAMARGO, Z. P.; BENARD, G. et al. Paracoccidioides brasiliensis-reactive antibodies in Brazilian blood donors. **Medical mycology**, v. 40, n. 4, p. 387-391, 2002.

BRUMMER, E.; CASTANEDA, E.; RESTREPO, A. Paracoccidioidomycosis: an update. **Clinical Microbiology Rev**, v. 6 p. 89–117, 1993.

CALDINI, C. P.; XANDER, P.; KIOSHIMA, E. S.; BACHI, A. L. L.; CAMARGO, Z. P.; MARIANO, M.; LOPES, J. D. Synthetic Peptides Mimic gp75 from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in the Diagnosis of Paracoccidioidomycosis. **Mycopathologia**, v. 174 p. 1-10, 2012;.

CAMARGO, Z. P.; UNTERKIRCHER, C.; CAMPOY, S. P.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. Production of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* exoantigens for immunodiffusion tests. **Journal of Clinical Microbiology**, v. 26, n.10, p. 2147-2151, 1988.

CAMARGO, Z. P.; FRANCO, M. F. Current knowledge on pathogenesis and immunodiagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis. **Revista Iberoamericana de Micologia**, v. 17, p. 41–8, 2000.

CERRI, A.; SILVA, E. X. S. R.; PACCA, F. T.; Paracoccidioidomycose: aspectos de interesse para o cirurgião-dentista. **Revista Paulista de Odontologia**.v. 20, p. 19-24, 1998

CISALPINO, P. S.; PUCCIA, R.; YAMAUCHI, L. M.; CANO, M. I.; DA SILVEIRA, J. F.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. Cloning, characterization, and epitope expression of the major diagnostic antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. **Journal of Biological Chemistry**, v. 271, n. 8, p. 4553-4560, 1996;

DI PINTO, A.; TERIO, V.; DI PINTO, P.; COLAO, V.; TANTILLO, G.; Detection of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in shellfish using polymerase chain reaction-enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. **Letters in Applied Microbiology**, v. 54, p. 494-498, 2012.

DINIZ, S.N.; CARVALHO, K.C.; CISALPINO, P. S.; SILVEIRA, J. F.; TRAVASSOS, L. R.; PUCCIA, R.; Expression in bacteria of the gene encoding the gp43 antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: immunological reactivity of the recombinant fusion proteins. **Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology**, v. 9, n. 6, p. 1200-1204, 2002;

FAVA NETTO, C.; Contribuição para o estudo imunológico de blastomicose de Lutz. **Revista do Instituto Adolpho Lutz**, v. 21, p. 99-194, 1961.

- FERRER, E.; BENITEZ, L.; FOSTER-CUEVAS, M., BRYCE, D., WAMAE, L.W.; ONYANGO-ABUJE, J. A.; et al. *Taenia saginata* derived synthetic peptides with potential for the diagnosis of bovine cysticercosis. **Veterinary Parasitology**, v. 111, n.1, p. 83-94, 2003.
- FONSECA, E. R. S.; PARDAL, P. P. O.; SEVERO, L. C. Paracoccidioidomicose em crianças em Belém do Pará. **Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical**, v. 32, p. 31-33, 1999
- FRANCO, M. Host-parasite relationships in paracoccidioidomycosis. **Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology**, v. 25, p. 5-18, 1986.
- FURTADO, J. S.; DE BRITO, T.; FREYMULLER, E. The structure and reproduction of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in human tissue. **Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology**, v. 5, n. 3, p. 226-229, 1967;
- GIOVANI, E. M.; MANTESSO, A.; LODUCCA, S. V. L.; et al. Paracoccidioidomycosis in an HIV-positive patient: a case report with gingival aspects. **Oral Disease**. V. 63, p. 27-9, 2000.
- GONZÁLEZ, L.; BOYLE, R. W.; ZHANG, M.; CASTILLO, J.; WHITTIER, S.; DELLA-LATTA, P.; et al.. Synthetic-peptide-based enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for screening human serum or plasma for antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and type 2. **Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology**. v. 4, n. 5, p. 598-603, 1997;
- KASHINO, S. S.; FAZIOLI, R. A.; CAFALLI-FAVATI, C.; et al.. Resistance to *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* infection is linked to a preferential Th1 immune response, whereas susceptibility is associated with absence of IFN-gamma production. **Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research**, v. 20, p. 89–97, 2000;
- LEMESRE, J. L.; HOLZMULLER, P.; CAVALEYRA, M.; et al.. Protection against experimental visceral leishmaniasis infection in dogs immunized with purified excreted secreted antigens of *Leishmania infantum* promastigotes. **Vaccine**, v. 23, p. 2825–2840, 2005.
- LUTZ, A. Uma micose pseudococídica localizada na boca e observada no Brasil:

contribuição ao conhecimento das hifoblastomicoses americanas. **Brasil Med**, v. 22, p. 121-4, 1908.

MARQUES DA SILVA, S. H.; COLOMBO, A. L.; BLOTTA, M. H. S. L.; et al..  
Detection of circulating gp43 antigen in serum, cerebrospinal fluid and  
bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of patients with paracoccidioidomycosis. **Journal  
Clinical Microbiology**, v. 41, p. 3675-80, 2003.

MARTINEZ, R.; Paracoccidioidomicose. In: SIDRIM, J. J. C.; ROCHA, M. F. G. (eds);  
Micologia médica à luz de autores contemporâneos, Rio de Janeiro, Guanabara  
Koogan, p. 204-221, 2004.

MENDES-GIANNINI, M. J. S.; BUENO, J. P.; SHIKANAI-YASUDA, M. A.; STOLF, A.  
M.; MASUDA, A.; AMATO NETO, V.; FERREIRA, A. W. Antibody responses to 43  
kDa glycoprotein of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* as a marker for the evaluation of  
patients under treatment. **The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and  
Hygiene**, v. 43, n. 2, p. 200-206, 1990.

MENDES-GIANNINI, M. J. S.; MELHEM, M. C.; Infecções fúngicas. In: FERREIRA,  
A. W.; ÀVILA, S. L. M.; Diagnóstico Laboratorial das principais doenças infecciosas e  
auto-imunes. Guanabara-Koogan: São Paulo; 2001

MOREIRA, A. P. V.; Paracoccidioidomicose: histórico, etiologia, epidemiologia,  
patogênese, formas clínicas, diagnóstico laboratorial e antígenos. **Boletim  
Epidemiológico Paulista**, Mar, vol. 5, n. 51, 2008.

ONO, M. A.; BRACARENSE, A. P. F. R. L.; MORAIS, H. A. S.; et al.. Canine  
paracoccidioidomycosis: a seroepidemiologic study. **Medical Mycology**, v. 39, n. 3,  
p. 277-82, 2001.

PALMEIRO, Mariana et al. Paracoccidioidomicose: revisão da literatura. **Scientia  
Medica**, v. 15, n. 4, p. 274-278, 2005.

PUCCIA, R.; SCHENKMAN, S.; GORIN, P. A. J.; TRAVASSOS, L. R.; Exocellular  
components of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: identification of a specific antigen.  
**Infection and Immunity**, v. 53, n. 1, p. 199-206, 1986.

PUCCIA, R.; TRAVASSOS, L. R.; 43-kilodalton glycoprotein from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: immunochemical reactions with sera from patients with paracoccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, or Jorge Lobo's disease. **Journal of Clinical Microbiology**, v. 29, n. 8, p. 1610-1615, 1991.

SAN-BLAS G. Paracoccidioidomycosis and its etiologic agent *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. **Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology**, v. 31, p. 99-113, 1993.

SAN-BLAS, G.; NINO-VEGA, G.; ITURRIAGA, T.; *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* and Paracoccidioidomycosis: molecular approaches to morphogenesis, diagnosis, epidemiology, taxonomy and genetics. **Medical Mycology**, v. 40, p. 225-242, 2002;

SAN-BLAS, G.; NIÑO-VEGA, G.; *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: chemical and molecular tool for research on cell walls, antigens, diagnosis, taxonomy. **Mycopathologia**, v. 165, p.183-195, 2008.

SHIKANAI-YASUDA, M. A., FILHO, F. Q. T.; MENDES, R. P.; COLOMBO, A. L.; MORETTI, M. L.; Grupo de Consultores do Consenso em Paracoccidioidomicose. Consenso em paracoccidioidomicose. **Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical**, v. 39, n. 3, p. 297-310, 2006.

SUE, M. J.; SWEE, K. Y.; ABDUL, R. O.; SHEAU, W. T.; Application of PCR-ELISA in Molecular Diagnosis, Application of PCR-ELISA in molecular diagnosis. **BioMed research international**, v. 2014, 2014.

SILVEIRA, L. H.; DOMINGOS, I. H.; KOUCHI, K.; et al.. Serological detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in dogs with leishmaniasis. **Mycopathologia**, v. 162, n. 5, p. 325-329, 2006.

TABA, M. R. M.; DA SILVEIRA, J. F.; TRAVASSOS, L. R., SCHENKMAN, S.; Expression in *Escherichia coli* of a gene coding for epitopes of a diagnostic antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. **Experimental mycology**, v. 13, n. 3, p. 223-230, 1989.

TABORDA, C. P.; CAMARGO, Z. P. Diagnosis of Paracoccidioidomycosis by Dot Immunobinding Assay for Antibody Detection Using the Purified and Specific Antigen gp43. **Journal of Clinical Microbiology**, v. 32, n. 2, p. 554-556, 1994.

TEIXEIRA, M. M.; THEODORO, R. C.; DE CARVALHO, M. J. A.; FERNANDES, L.; PAES, H. C.; HAHN, R. C.; MENDOZA, L.; BAGAGLI, E.; SAN-BLAS, G.; FELIPE, M. S. S.; Phylogenetic analysis reveals a high level of speciation in the *Paracoccidioides* genus. **Molecular phylogenetics and evolution**, v. 52, n. 2, p. 273-283, 2009.

TELES, F. R. R.; MARTINS, M. L. Laboratorial diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis and new insights for the future of fungal diagnosis. **Talanta**, v. 85, n. 5, p. 2254-2264, 2011.

WANKE, B.; Epidemiology of Paracoccidioidomycosis: an emerging health problem in the Brazilian Amazon region. In: **Encontro Internacional sobre Paracoccidioidomicose**, 7, Campos de Jordão, 1999. Resumos. Campos de Jordão, 1999. p. 39.

ZHANG, P.; GEBHART, C. J.; BURDEN, D.; DUHAMEL, G. E.; Improves diagnosis of porcine proliferative enteropathy caused by *Lawsonia intracellularis* using polymerase chain reaction-enzyme-linked oligosorbent assay (PCR-ELOSA). Abstract. **Molecular and cellular probes**, v. 14, n. 2, p. 101-108, 2000.

## 4 ARTIGOS CIENTÍFICOS

### DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST *PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS* BY ELISA BASED ON RECOMBINANT GP43 AND SYNTHETIC PEPTIDES

#### ABSTRACT

Paracoccidioidomycosis is a systemic mycosis endemic in Latin America and the eighth leading cause of death in Brazil. The aim of this study was evaluate the use of recombinant gp43 (rGp43) and synthetic peptides based on gp43 sequence for detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in serum samples positive (n=20) and negative (n=22) by immunodiffusion test with *P. brasiliensis* exoantigen. All of the samples positive by immunodiffusion were positive for rGp43 ELISA whereas 75% of samples were positive for synthetic peptide ELISA. The samples negative by immunodiffusion test showed positivity for rGp43 and synthetic peptide ELISA of 36.4% and 40.9%, respectively. These results suggest that rGp43 is a better antigen for detection of antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* than synthetic peptide. The reactivity observed in ELISA based on rGp43 and synthetic peptide when compared with immunodiffusion test probably is due to the higher sensitivity of ELISA.

**Key-Words:** gp43, *P. brasiliensis*, serodiagnosis

#### INTRODUCTION

Paracoccidioidomycosis (PCM) is a systemic mycosis endemic in Latin America caused by the thermodimorphic fungus *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* [1]. The infection probably occurs by inhalation of fungus propagules from soil [2] and the chronic form of PCM, the most frequent [3], affects mainly male rural workers [4].

Although serological methods are frequently used for diagnosis of PCM, they present limitations such as cross-reactivity with antigens from other pathogens and lack of standardization and variability in antigen production [5].

The glycoprotein of 43 kDa (gp43) is the main antigen used in immunodiagnostic of PCM [6], but cross reactivity can occur due to carbohydrate epitopes [7]. The production of recombinant Gp43 in *Escherichia coli*, that is non-glycosylated, can minimize cross-reactivity [8].

Synthetic peptides based on sequence of antigens can be used as synthetic

antigens in immunodiagnostic of several infectious and parasitic diseases and offer advantages such as low cost, high sensitivity and specificity [9, 10]. Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate the use of recombinant and synthetic peptides for detection of antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* in human serum samples.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### **Prediction of the synthetic peptide sequences**

The five aminoacid sequences of the synthetic peptides were predicted by OptimumAntigen Design Program and the peptides were synthesized by Watsonbio, Houston – TX (USA). The synthetic peptides were conjugated with Bovine serum albumin before use in ELISA.

### ***P. brasiliensis* exoantigens and Immunodiffusion**

Exoantigen was obtained from *P. brasiliensis* B-339 and used to Immunodiffusion previously tested according Camargo et al (1988) [6].

### **Human serum samples**

The human positive serum samples (n=20) for *P. brasiliensis* were collected from patients of Londrina State University School Hospital, Cascavel and Foz do Iguaçu and the negative serum samples (n=22) for *P. brasiliensis* were collected from students of the Londrina State University.

### **ELISA with rGp43 and synthetic peptides**

Flat bottom microtiter polystyrene plate were coated with 10 µg/mL rGp43 or 160 ng/mL synthetic peptide in carbonate buffer (0.1 M, pH 9.6) at 4°C, overnight. After washing with PBS-T (PBS with 0.05% Tween 20), the wells were blocked with 5% skim milk in PBS for 1 h at 25°C. The sera samples diluted 1:100 in PBS-1% skim milk (100 µL/well) were incubated at 25°C for 1 h. After this, 100 µL/well anti-human IgG-peroxidase conjugate (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) was added followed by incubation for 1 h at 25°C, and 100 µL substrate-chromogen (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/TMB) was added for 15 min. The reaction was stopped by the addition of 4N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (50 µL/well) and the absorbance was measured in a Microplate Reader at 450 nm. All the samples were analyzed in duplicate. A positive and a negative serum sample by

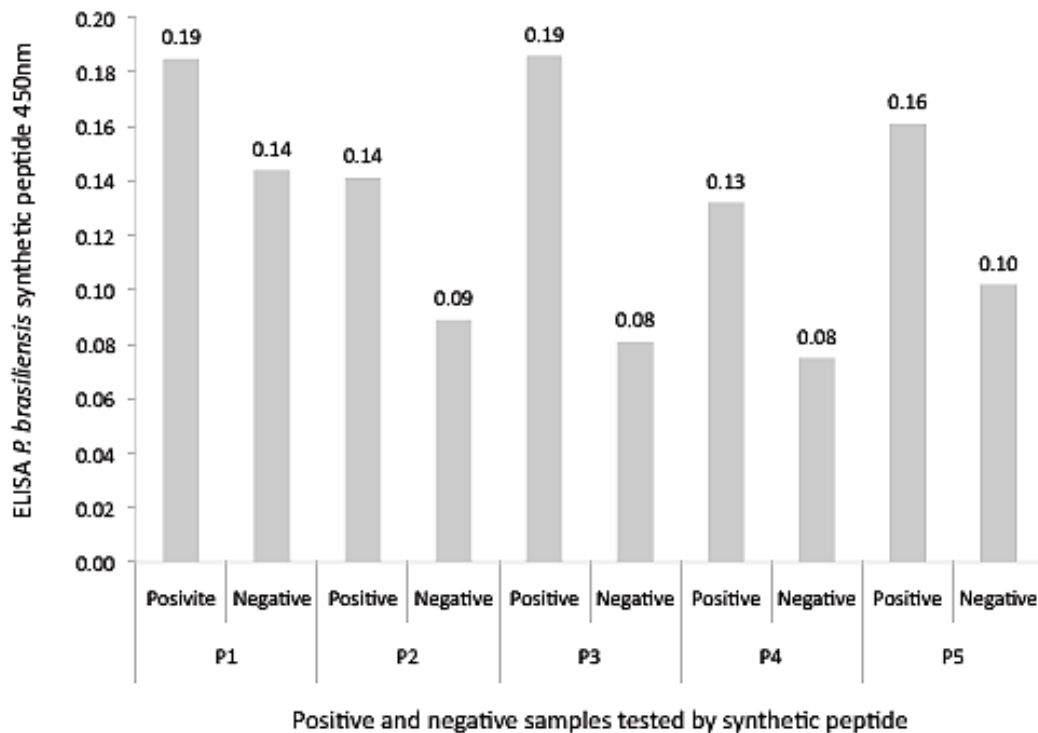
immunodiffusion test were used as controls. The samples with two-fold absorbance of the negative control were considered positive.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PCM diagnosis is performed by histopathological exam, mycological and immunological methods [11]. However, none of the methods presently used is sufficiently fast, cheap, sensitive or specific [12].

Production of antigens from *P. brasiliensis* culture is laborious, time consuming and lacks reproducibility [7, 13, 14]. Recombinant and synthetic antigens are attractive alternatives and have been used successfully for immunodiagnosis of infectious and parasitic diseases [9, 15, 16].

The analysis of five peptides (P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5) based on gp43 by ELISA showed reactivity of peptide P3, that was selected for further analysis of the serum samples (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Reactivity serum samples positive and negative to gp43 against five synthetic peptides evaluated by ELISA.

**Table 1.** Reactivity of serum samples to *P. brasiliensis* antigens evaluated by immunodiffusion test and ELISA.

	Immunodiffusion (exoantigen)		ELISA (rGp43)		ELISA (synthetic peptide)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Positive</b>	20	100	20	100	15	75
<b>Negative</b>	22	100	14	63.6	13	59.1

All the serum samples positive in immunodiffusion test were positive in ELISA with rGp43, whereas 75% were positive in ELISA with synthetic peptide (Table 1). The serum samples negative by immunodiffusion showed a positivity of 36.4 and 41.1% to rGp43 and synthetic peptide, respectively (Table 1).

The reactivity observed in ELISA with rGp43 and synthetic peptide in serum samples negative by immunodiffusion probably is due to the high sensitivity of the immunoenzymatic assay, and indicates PCM infection. Therefore, both antigens can be useful for seroepidemiological studies.

The lower reactivity observed in ELISA with synthetic peptide when compared to rGp43 probably is due to the higher number of epitopes present in the recombinant protein. Despite the lower reactivity observed in ELISA with synthetic peptide, when compared to rGp43, the use of this type of antigen is promising and addition of new peptides could improve the assay. Therefore, actually we are searching for other antigenic sequences in gp43 as well as in other *P. brasiliensis* antigens.

Peptides synthetic and/or recombinant antigen have been used in ELISA and recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA) for detection of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C in hospital, blood donors and diagnosis laboratory [17, 18, 19]. The use of recombinant and synthetic peptides can be a valuable alternative for the immunodiagnosis of PCM in humans.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank CNPq, CAPES and Araucaria Foundation for financial support.

## REFERENCES

1. DINIZ S N, CARVALHO K C, CISALPINO P S, et al. Expression in bacteria of the gene encoding the gp43 antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: immunological reactivity of the recombinant fusion proteins. *Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology* 2002; 9(6):1200-1204.
2. BRUMMER E, CASTANEDA E, RESTREPO A. Paracoccidioidomycosis: an update. *Clin Microbiol Rev.* 1993; 6:89–117.
3. BLOTTA M H, CAMARGO Z P. Immunological response to cell free antigens of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: relationship with clinical forms of paracoccidioidomycosis. *J Clin Microbiol* 1993; 31:671–6.
4. SAN-BLAS G, NIÑO-VEGAS G. *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: chemical and molecular tool for research on cell walls, antigens, diagnosis, taxonomy. *Mycopathologia* 2008; 165:183-195.
5. CAMARGO, Z. P. Serology of paracoccidioidomycosis. *Mycopathologia* 2008; 165:289–302.
6. CAMARGO, Z. P.; UNTERKIRCHER, C.; CAMPOY, S. P.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. Production of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* exoantigens for immunodiffusion tests. *J Clin Microbiol* 1988; 26:2147–2151.
7. PUCCIA R.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. 43-kilodalton glycoprotein from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: immunochemical reactions with sera from patients with paracoccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, or Jorge Lobo's disease. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 1991; 29(8): 1610-1615.
8. FERNANDES, V. C.; COITINHO, J. B.; VELOSO, J. M.; et al.. Combined use of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* recombinant rPb27 and rPb40 antigens in an enzyme-

linked immunosorbent assay for immunodiagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis. *J Immunol Methods* 2011; 367(1–2): 78–84.

9. NOYA, O.; PATARROYO, M. E.; GUZMAN, F.; DE NOYA, B. A. Immunodiagnosis of parasitic diseases with synthetic peptides. *Current Protein and Peptide Science* 2003; 4(4): 299-308.

10. GOMARA, M. J.; HARO, I. Synthetic peptides for the immunodiagnosis of human diseases. *Current medicinal chemistry* 2007; 14(5): 531-546.

11. ELIAS COSTA, M. R.; DA SILVA LACAZ, C.; KAWASAKI, M.; DE CAMARGO, Z. P. Conventional versus molecular diagnostic tests. *Med Mycol* 2000; 38: 139–45.

12. CALDINI, C. P.; XANDER, P.; KIOSHIMA, E. S.; BACHI, A. L. L.; CAMARGO, Z. P.; MARIANO, M.; LOPES, J. D. Synthetic Peptides Mimic gp75 from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in the Diagnosis of Paracoccidioidomycosis. *Mycopathologia* 2012; 174:1-10.

13. PUCCIA, R.; SCHENKMAN, S.; GORIN, P. A. J.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. Exocellular components of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: identification of a specific antigen. *Infect Immun* 1986; 53: 199-206.

14. CAMARGO, Z. P.; GESZTESI, J. L.; SARAIVA, E. C.; et al.. Monoclonal antibody capture enzyme immunoassay for detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* antibodies in paracoccidioidomycosis. *J. Clin. Microbiol* 1994; 32: 2377–2381.

15. CISALPINO, P. S.; PUCCIA, R.; YAMAUCHI, L. M.; CANO, M. I.; DA SILVEIRA, J. F.; TRAVASSOS, L. R. Cloning, characterization, and epitope expression of the major diagnostic antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. *J Biol Chem* 1996; 271(8): 4553–60.

16. CARVALHO, K. C.; VALLEJO, M. C.; CAMARGO, Z. P.; PUCCIA, R. Use of recombinant gp43 isoforms expressed in *Pichia pastoris* for diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis. *Clin Vaccine Immunol* 2008; 15(4): 622–9.

17. SÁEZ-ALQUÉZAR, A.; BASSIT, L.; SABINO, E. C. Hepatites. In: Ferreira AW, Ávila SLM. *Diagnóstico laboratorial das principais doenças infecciosas e auto-*

*imunes*. Rio de Janeiro: Guanabara Koogan; 1996. p.37-49.

18. REICHE, E. M. V.; MORIMOTO, H. K.; FARIAS, G. N.; HISATSUGU, K. R.; GELLER, L.; GOMES, A. C. L. F.; INOUE, H. Y.; RODRIGUES, G.; MATSUO, T. Prevalence of american trypanosomiasis, syphilis, toxoplasmosis, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus infection, assayed through serological tests among pregnant patients, from 1996 to 1998, of the Hospital Universitário Regional Norte do Paraná (Londrina State University, Paraná, Brazil). *Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical*, 2000; 33(6): 519-527.

19. DEPARTAMENTO DE DST, AIDS E HEPATITES VIRAIS. Available: <<http://www.aids.gov.br/>>. Accessed: 10 Jun. 2016.

## DETECTION OF *PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS* IN SPUTUM BY PCR-ELISA

### ABSTRACT

Paracoccidioidomycosis caused by *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, is a systemic mycosis endemic in several Latin American countries. The limitations of the histological techniques, serological and culture lead to demand for more efficient diagnostic methods. PCR-ELISA can be an alternative method for detection of *P. brasiliensis* in biological samples. The aim of this study was evaluate the detection of *P. brasiliensis* in sputum by PCR-ELISA. A sputum sample from a health individual was inoculated with 10 to 10<sup>5</sup> yeast cells/mL of *P. brasiliensis*, the DNA was extracted by HipurA extraction kit and was used in nested-PCR reaction. For PCR-ELISA the products of second reaction were used for hybridization with the probe and ELISA procedure. Two pair of primers (ITS4, ITS5; PbITSE, PbITSR) were used for Nested-PCR and PCR-ELISA, that proved to be faster to purify, precise, sensitivity and specificity to detect different concentration of fungal cells and can be used for detection of *P. brasiliensis* cells in sputum even in low cells concentrations. PCR-ELISA and Nested-PCR were able to detect a low quantity of *P. brasiliensis* cells although the time of analysis of PCR-ELISA was reduced in relation a conventional PCR. The analysis by PCR-ELISA of two sputum from patients with paracoccidioidomycosis showed positive results, suggesting that this method can be useful for detection of *P. brasiliensis* in clinical samples.

**Key-Words:** nested-PCR, Paracoccidioidomycosis, serodiagnosis

### INTRODUCTION

Paracoccidioidomycosis (PCM), caused by *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* and *P. lutzii*, is a systemic mycosis endemic in most Latin American countries, especially in Brazil [1, 2]. PCM affects mainly rural workers and the infection occurs probably by inhalation of fungus propagules [3].

Despite being considered the eighth cause of death among infectious and parasitic diseases in Brazil [4], fifth in Paraná State [5] and the first cause of death among all systemic mycoses in immunocompetent patients [6], PCM is considered a neglected disease and its impact on public health has not been quantified due to lack of available data [7].

The diagnosis of this mycosis is usually performed by direct microscopic

examination of biological samples such as sputum and skin or mucous membrane biopsies. The diagnosis of PCM is based mainly in time consuming techniques such as histopathological exams and mycological methods. Immunological methods are also useful for PCM diagnosis but cross reactivity can occur with antigens from other pathogens [3, 8, 9].

In the last decade, the detection of *P. brasiliensis* infection by molecular methods such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has been increasing, providing both high sensitivity and specificity rates [10]. However, molecular diagnosis of PCM is not currently used in clinical routine.

PCR-ELISA, a combination of PCR and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay is considered to be more sensitive than standard PCR and the result is obtained by reading absorbance using a microplate reader [11, 12, 13].

The aim of this study was to evaluate the detection of *P. brasiliensis* in sputum by PCR-ELISA.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Sputum samples and DNA isolation**

A sputum sample from a health individual, negative for *P. brasiliensis* in Nested PCR, was spiked with 10 to 10<sup>5</sup> yeast cells of *P. brasiliensis* B-339. Sputum samples were collected from two patients with paracoccidioidomycosis. DNA was extracted using HiPurA Multi-Sample DNA Purification Kit (HiMedia Laboratories, Mumbai, India) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Primers and probe design**

Nested-PCR for the detection of *P. brasiliensis* DNA was carried out according to Richini-Pereira and cols, using outer panfungal primers ITS4 and ITS5 and inner primers Pb-ITSE and Pb-ITSR [14]. A 5'-biotin labeled internal oligonucleotide probe was selected from *P. brasiliensis* DNA sequence according GenBank accession number AY374339. Primers and probe sequences are described in Table 1.

**Table 1.** PCR primers and hybridization capture probe for *Pb* genes.

Oligonucleotide	Sequence (5'-3')	Expected product size (bp)
ITS4	TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC	650
ITS5	GGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAACG	
PbITSE	GAGCTTTGACGTCTGAGACC	387
PbITSR	AAGGGTGTGCGATCGAGAGAG	
Probe	Biotin-TCCGAGCGTCATTTCAACCCTCAA	-

### DNA Amplification

DNA (25 ng) was used for PCR with outer panfungal primers in the first reaction, amplified using 1 U of Taq polymerase (Invitrogen™, Carlsbad, California, USA), 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 μM of primers ITS4 and ITS5, and 0.25 mM of dNTP in a total volume of 25 μL. The PCR conditions were: 95°C for 5 min; 35 cycles of 95 °C for 30 sec, 60 °C for 30 sec, 72 °C for 45 sec, and 72 °C for 10 min. The reaction mixture of the second round PCR was 1 U of Taq polymerase, 2.5 μl of the first PCR product as template, 0.5 μM of Pb-ITSE and Pb-ITSR primers plus a mixture contained 0.25 mM of digoxigenin-dUTP (PCR DIG Labeling Mix, Roche®) performed as describe by the manufacturer's, programmed as follows: 94 °C for 2 min; 35 cycles of 94 °C for 30 sec, 62 °C for 30 sec, 72 °C for 45 sec; and 72 °C for 10 min. All PCR reactions were run on Biocycler (Biosystems, Guelph, Ontario, Canada). The final product of PCR in first reaction were a 650 bp fragment and 387 bp in the second reaction by electrophoresis on polyacrylamide gel 10% (w/v) detected by silver staining method.

### Detection of *P. brasiliensis* in sputum by PCR-ELISA

Biotin-labeled probe specific for *P. brasiliensis* were mixed with digoxigenin-labelled PCR amplicons of the second reaction and hybridization solution, in final concentration 7.5 pmol/mL. The hybridization mixture was applied in a microtitration plate coated with streptavidin and incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. Hybrids were detected

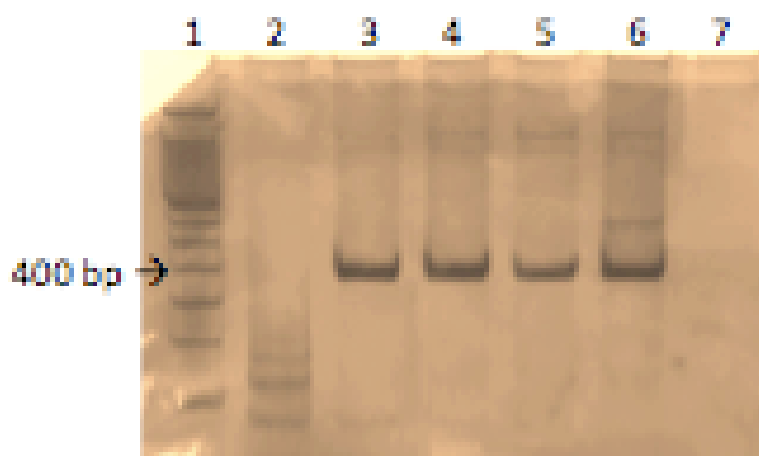
by anti-digoxigenin conjugated with horseradish peroxidase for 30 min at 37 °C. A 2'-azino-bis[3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid] was used as substrate for 30 min at 37 °C with agitation and absence of light, and absorbance was measured at 405 nm using ELISA reader (Labsystems Multiskan EX). Three washes with PBS-Tween 20 0.05% were done between each step. The samples with optical density two-fold or more the negative control O.D (405 nm) were considered positive.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

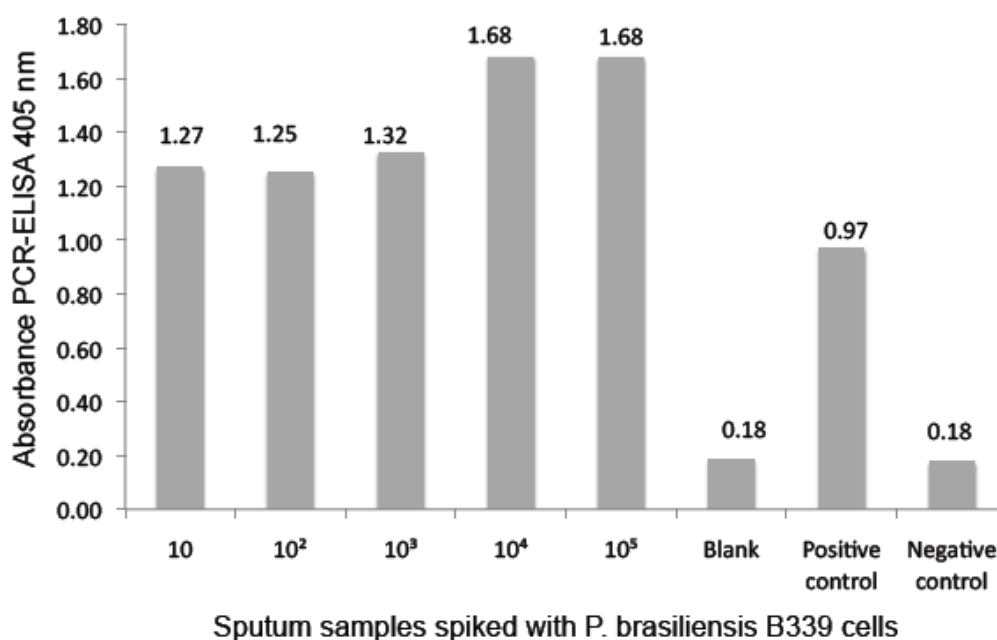
Paracoccidioidomycosis is a systemic mycosis endemic in most Latin American Countries and the diagnosis is performed mainly by histopathological exam and mycological and immunological methods.

Molecular methods such as PCR are safe, sensitive and specific and could improve the diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis [15, 16, 17].

In this study we evaluated the detection of *P. brasiliensis* in sputum samples spiked with *P. brasiliensis* cells by Nested-PCR and PCR-ELISA. The Nested-PCR was positive in samples spiked with 10 to 10<sup>4</sup> cells (Figure 1), although all samples were positive by PCR-ELISA (Figure 2).



**Figure 1.** Detection of *P. brasiliensis* by Nested-PCR in sputum samples spiked with 10 to 10<sup>5</sup> cells of *P. brasiliensis* B-339. The Nested-PCR products were analyzed by polyacrylamide gel 10% electrophoresis with silver nitrate staining. 1. Ladder 100 bp; 2. 10<sup>5</sup> cells/mL; 3. 10<sup>4</sup> cells/mL; 4. 10<sup>3</sup> cells; 5. 10<sup>2</sup> cells/mL; 6. 10 cells; 7. Blank.



**Figure 2.** Detection of *P. brasiliensis* by PCR-ELISA in sputum samples spiked with 10 to 10<sup>5</sup> cells of *P. brasiliensis* B-339. The results are expressed as absorbance values.

A PCR assay was used for detection of *P. brasiliensis* DNA in serum of mice experimentally infected with *P. brasiliensis* and showed a limit of detection of 10 pg [18]. Bialek et al. (2000) reported the detection of *P. brasiliensis* DNA by a nested PCR in lung samples from mice experimentally infected with *P. brasiliensis* and the limit of detection was 0.5 fg [19].

Studies have shown that antifungal therapies guided by PCR-based methods are associated with lower mortality and decrease in antifungal treatment, with a consequent reduction of treatment costs and toxic effects [20].

The results of this study suggest that PCR-ELISA can be useful for detection of *P. brasiliensis* in clinical samples. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that this technique is used for detection of *P. brasiliensis*.

## REFERENCES

Lutz, A. (1908). Uma micose pseudococídica localizada na boca e observada no Brasil: contribuição ao conhecimento das hifoblastomicoses americanas. *Brasil Med*,

22, 121-4.

Teixeira M M, Theodoro R C, de Carvalho M J, Fernandes L, Paes H C, Hahn, R C, Felipe M S S. Phylogenetic analysis reveals a high level of speciation in the *Paracoccidioides* genus. *Mol phylogenetics and evol*, 2009; 52(2): 273-283.

Brummer E, Castaneda E & Restrepo A. Paracoccidioidomycosis: an update. *Clinical microbiology reviews* 1993; 6(2), 89-117.

Coutinho Z F, Silva D, Lazéra M, et al. Paracoccidioidomycosis mortality in Brazil (1980-1995). *Cad de Saúde Pública RJ* 2002; 18: 1441-1454.

Bittencourt J I M, Oliveira R M D, & Coutinho, Z F. Paracoccidioidomycosis mortality in the State of Paraná, Brazil, 1980/1998. *Cad de Saúde Pública* 2005; 21(6), 1856-1864.

Colombo AL, Tobón A, Restrepo A, Queiroz-Telles F, Nucci M. Epidemiology of endemic systemic fungal infections in Latin America. *Med. Mycol.* Nov 2011; 49(8): 785-98.

Hotez P J, Bottazzi M E, Franco-Paredes C, Ault S K, Periago M R. The neglected tropical diseases of Latin America and the Caribbean: a review of disease burden and distribution and a roadmap for control and elimination. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 2008; 2(9), e300.

Martinez R. Paracoccidioidomycosis: The dimension of the problem of a neglected disease. *Rev Soc Bras Med Trop.* 2010; 43:480.

Moreira A P V. Paracoccidioidomycose: histórico, etiologia, epidemiologia, patogênese, formas clínicas, diagnóstico laboratorial e antígenos. *Bol Epidemiol Paulista.* 2008 mar; 5(51).

Buitrago M J, Merino P, Puente S, Gomez-Lopez A, Arribi A, Zancopé-Oliveira R M, Gutierrez M C, Rodriguez-Tudela J L, and Cuenca-Estrella M. Utility of Real-time PCR for the detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* DNA in the diagnosis of imported paracoccidioidomycosis *Med Mycol* 2009; 47 (8): 879-882

Higuchi R, Fockler C, Dollinger G, & Watson R. Kinetic PCR analysis: real-time

monitoring of DNA amplification reactions. *Biotechnology* 1993; 11, 1026-1030.

Zhang P, Gebhart C J, Burden D, Duhamel G E (). Improved diagnosis of porcine proliferative enteropathy caused by *Lawsonia intracellularis* using polymerase chain reaction-enzyme-linked oligosorbent assay (PCR-ELOSA). *Mol and cell probes* 2000; 14(2), 101-108.

Sue M J, Yeap S K, Omar A R, Tan S W. Application of PCR-ELISA in Molecular Diagnosis. *BioMed research international*, 2014.

Richini-Pereira V B, Bosco S M G, Griese J, Theodoro R C, Macoris S A G. Silva R J, Bagagli E. Molecular detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in road-killed wild animals. *Med mycol* 2008; 46(1), 35-40.

Atkins S D & Clark I M. Fungal molecular diagnostics: a mini review. *J Appl Genet* 2004; 45(1), 3-15.

Wengenack N L & Binnicker M J. Fungal molecular diagnostics. *Clinics in chest med* 2009; 30(2), 391-408.

Duarte A M V, Andrade H M D, Monte S J H D, Toledo V D P C P, Guimarães T M P D. Assessment of chemiluminescence and PCR effectiveness in relation to conventional serological tests for the diagnosis of Chagas' disease. *Rev Soc Bras Med Trop* 2006; 39(4), 385-387.

Goldani L Z, Sugar A M. Short report: use of the polymerase chain reaction to detect *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in murine paracoccidioidomycosis. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 1998; 58:152–153.

Bialek R, Ibricevic A, Aepinus C, Najvar L K, Fothergill A W, Knobloch J, Graybill J R. Detection of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in Tissue Samples by a Nested PCR Assay. *J of Clin Microbiol* 2000; 38(8), 2940–2942.

Kourkoumpetis T K, Fuchs B B, Coleman J J, Desalermos A, Mylonakis E. Polymerase chain reaction–based assays for the diagnosis of invasive fungal infections. *Clin infect diseases* 2012; 132.

## DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST *PARACOCCIDIOIDES BRASILIENSIS* IN INDIVIDUALS SEROPOSITIVE AND SERONEGATIVE FOR LEISHMANIASIS

### ABSTRACT

Paracoccidioidomycosis is a systemic mycosis caused by the thermodimorphic fungus *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* and leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by protozoans of the genus *Leishmania*. Both diseases are endemic in Brazil and other Latin American countries. The aim of this study was to evaluate antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* in individuals seropositive samples from individuals seropositive and negative for Leishmaniasis. The seropositive (n=14) and seronegative (n=39) were analyzed by ELISA and immunodiffusion test using recombinant gp43 (rGp43) and *P. brasiliensis* exoantigen, respectively. The serum samples positive and negative for leishmaniasis showed positivity for rGp43 in ELISA of 64.3% and 53.8%, respectively, and the difference was not significant ( $P>0.05$ ). No serum sample showed reactivity by immunodiffusion test using exoantigen. The low correlation coefficient ( $r=0.1371$ ) between reactivity against *P. brasiliensis* and *Leishmania* antigens suggests that patients with leishmaniasis were co-infected with *P. brasiliensis*.

Keywords: Paracoccidioidomycosis, gp43, *Leishmania* sp.

### INTRODUCTION

Paracoccidioidomycosis (PCM) is a systemic disease caused by *P. brasiliensis*, a thermodimorphic fungus described in the early twentieth century [1] which is highly prevalent in Latin America and one of the most important causes of mortality among systemic mycoses [2]. PCM affects mainly male rural workers, causing granulomatous lesions in the lungs, spleen, liver, lymph nodes, skin and mucous membranes [3-5].

PCM can be classified as PCM infection and PCM disease. PCM infection affects apparently healthy individuals, of both sexes, which presents positive skin tests to paracoccidioidin [4]. The cellular immune response is preserved and infection can be detected by skin reaction and serological tests [6]. PCM disease can be classified in acute form, with lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, and in the chronic form, the most frequent, that cause lesions primarily in the lungs with further dissemination to other organs and tissues [7, 8].

The diagnosis of PCM can be performed by mycological, histopathological and

immunological methods [9]. Although glycoprotein of 43 kDa is the main antigen used for immunodiagnosis of PCM [10], the carbohydrate portion can cause cross-reactivity with antigens of other pathogens. The cross-reactivity can be reduced by using recombinant gp43 (rGp43) produced in *Escherichia coli*, because it is not glycosylated [7, 11-13].

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease that occurs in overlapping regions of Brazil and other Latin American countries [14]. The differential diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis and leishmaniasis is very important because the cutaneous lesions in both diseases are similar and cross-reactivity may occur in serological tests [15-17].

In a previous study of our group we observed a significant higher reactivity against *P. brasiliensis* antigens in dogs seropositive for leishmaniasis than in seronegative ones [18]. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to evaluate the presence of antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* in human serum samples positive and negative for leishmaniasis.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### **Serum samples**

The serum samples positive (n=14) and negative (n=39) for leishmaniasis were provided from Adolfo Lutz Institute located in Araçatuba, São Paulo State, Brazil. The serum samples were analyzed by rapid test IT-LEISH (DiaMed IT-LEISH) and indirect immunofluorescence (BioManguinhos).

### **Area of study**

Araçatuba municipality (figure 1) and other 40 municipalities attended by Adolfo Lutz Institute are located in São Paulo State, Southeast of Brazil. The climate is humid subtropical with mean annual temperatures of 23°C and annual rainfall of 200 mm to 1100 mm. The rainy season is from October to March, and latosol red and purple is the predominant soil type.



**Figure 1.** Map showing location of Araçatuba municipality in São Paulo State, Southeast Brazil.

### **Paracoccidioides brasiliensis antigens**

The exoantigen was obtained from culture of *P. brasiliensis* B-339, as described by Camargo et al. (1988) [19], and the recombinant gp43 antigen was expressed, induced and purified as described by Assunção (2012) [20].

### **Immunodiffusion test**

The immunodiffusion test was performed as previously described by Eisele et al. (2004) [21] and a serum sample from a patient with paracoccidioidomycosis was used as positive control.

### **ELISA for anti-gp43 antibodies detection**

Flat bottom microtiter polystyrene plates were coated with 100  $\mu$ L rGp43 (10  $\mu$ g/mL) in carbonate buffer (0.1 M, pH 9.6), overnight at 4°C. After washing with PBS-T (PBS with 0.05% Tween 20), the wells were blocked with 5% skim milk in PBS for 1 h at room temperature. The serum samples were diluted 1:100 in PBS-1% skim milk (100  $\mu$ L/well), incubated at 25°C for 1 h and 100  $\mu$ L/well of anti-human IgG-peroxidase conjugate (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) were added and incubated for 1 h at 25°C. Then, 100  $\mu$ L of substrate-chromogen ( $H_2O_2$ /TMB) were added for 15 min and the reaction was stopped with the addition of 4N  $H_2SO_4$  (50  $\mu$ L/well). The absorbance was measured in a microplate reader at 450 nm. All the samples were analyzed in duplicate. The positive and negative controls used were serum samples positive and negative in immunodiffusion test. The serum samples with two-fold absorbance of the negative control were considered positive.

### Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis was performed with the software Statistica 10. Differences between the groups were compared by nonparametric chi-square test and the difference was considered significant when  $P < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study we evaluate antibodies against *P. brasiliensis* in human serum samples positive and negative for leishmaniasis and observed reactivity against rGp43 by ELISA of 64.3% and 53.8%, respectively. The difference was not statistically significant and no reactivity was observed in immunodiffusion test (Table 1). Despite the high frequency of positivity in ELISA in both groups, the negativity in immunodiffusion test suggests that individuals were infected by *P. brasiliensis* but not developed disease [19].

Previously, our group demonstrated a higher positivity against *P. brasiliensis* gp43 (79.9%) and exoantigen (12.7%) in dogs seropositive for leishmaniasis than in seronegative ones (54.0% and 1.0%, respectively) [18]. In the present study, individuals positive and negative for leishmaniasis showed no significant difference in reactivity against rGp43 by ELISA, suggesting that the risk of infection by *P. brasiliensis* is the same in both groups.

A seroepidemiological study conducted in Brazil with blood donors, showed a positivity of 21% against native Gp43 by ELISA and a reduction to 12.3% after the adsorption with *L. amazonensis* antigen, suggesting cross-reactivity [22]. Taking into account that here, we used a rGp43 (non-glycosylated), the probability of cross-reactivity is reduced. Additionally, the low correlation coefficient (Figure 2) between reactivity against *P. brasiliensis* and *Leishmania* antigens reinforces that positivity for both pathogens indicates co-infection and not cross-reactivity. In the previous study with dogs a low correlation had been observed between reactivity against *P. brasiliensis* and *Leishmania* antigens.

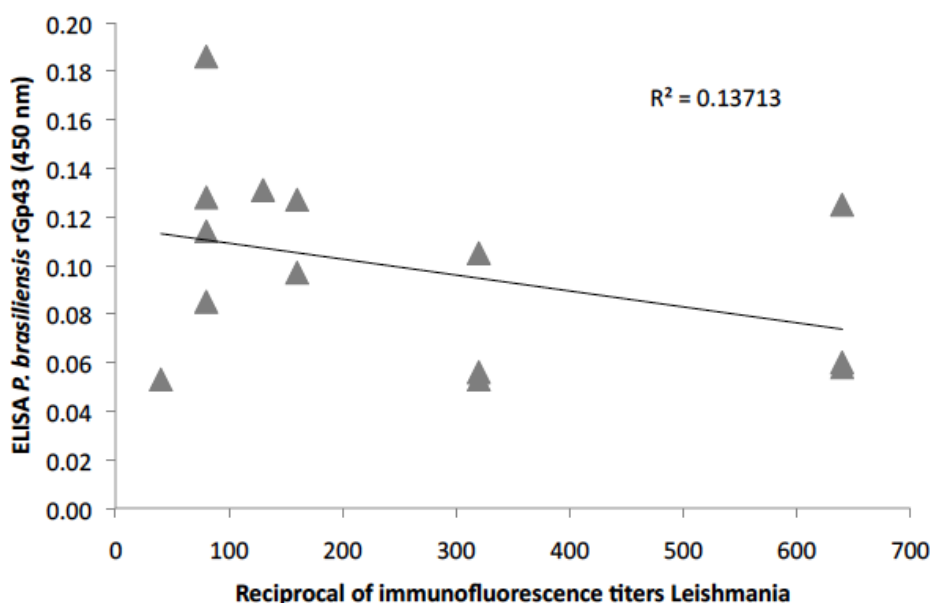
The positivity to *P. brasiliensis* was also not significantly in relation to gender or age (Table 2), as reported in seroepidemiological studies of paracoccidioidomycosis with humans and other animal species [23-25].

**Table 1.** Reactivity against *P. brasiliensis* by ELISA (rGp43) and immunodiffusion (exoantigen) in human serum samples positive and negative for Leishmaniasis.

Serum samples	n	ELISA (rGp43)		Immunodiffusion (exoantigen)	
		positive n (%)	negative n (%)	positive n (%)	negative n (%)
Positive for leishmaniasis	14	9 (64.3)	5 (35.7)	0 (0)	14 (100)
Negative for leishmaniasis	39	21 (53.8)	18 (46.2)	0 (0)	39 (100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>30 (56.6)</b>	<b>23 (43.4)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>53 (100)</b>

**Table 2.** Positivity to rGp43 in human serum samples evaluated by ELISA, according to gender and age.

Gender	ELISA (rGp43) %	Age (mean)
Male	51.7	48.6 ± 22.5
Female	62.5	37.1 ± 31.0



**Figure 2.** Correlation between reactivity against rGp43 (absorbance) and Leishmania antigens (reciprocal of immunofluorescence titers) in serum samples positive for leishmaniasis.

The region of Araçatuba, located in Northwest São Paulo state, Brazil, shows high rates of human leishmaniasis (33 cases and 2 deaths in 2014) according to Brazilians' Ministry of Health and the Information System for Notifiable Diseases (SINAN) [26]. França and colleagues (2011) [27] examined 61 cases of patients with PCM attended in Araçatuba Dental School and the disease was more frequent in male rural workers. Sassi and colleagues (2004) [28] evaluated medical and hospital records from Erasto Gaertner Hospital in Curitiba, Paraná State and from Universidade Estadual Paulista at Araçatuba during the period of 1972 to 2001 providing a profile of these patients. The 352 patients diagnosed with PCM showed a mean age of 49.2 years and most were male rural workers.

Taking into account that Th1 response is protective in leishmaniasis and paracoccidioidomycosis [29, 30] and that this type of response is impaired in patients with leishmaniasis, development of paracoccidioidomycosis could be favored in individuals co-infected with *P. brasiliensis*. Therefore, more studies are necessary to evaluate if patients with leishmaniasis co-infected with *P. brasiliensis* are more susceptible to development of PCM disease.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the *Coordination* for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (*CAPES*) and Araucaria Foundation.

## REFERENCES

- Lutz, A. Uma micose pseudo-coccidica localizada na boca e observada no Brasil: Contribuição ao conhecimento das hypho-blastomycoses americanas. *Bras. Med.* 1908; 22: 141-144.
- Prado M, Silva MB, Laurenti R, et al. Mortality due to systemic mycoses as a primary cause of death or in association with AIDS in Brazil: a review from 1996 to 2006. *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* 2009; 104(3): 513-521.
- Puccia R, Schenkman S, Gorin PA, et al. Exocellular components of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: identification of a specific antigen. *Infection and Immunity* 1986; 53(1), 199-206.
- Franco, M. Host-parasite relationships in paracoccidioidomycosis. *Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology* 1986; 25:5-18.
- Brummer E; Castaneda E; Restrepo A. Paracoccidioidomycosis: an update. *Clinical microbiology reviews* 1993; 6(2): 89-117.
- Blotta MH, Camargo ZP. Immunological response to cell free antigens of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: relationship with clinical forms of paracoccidioidomycosis. *J Clin Microbiol.* 1993; 31:671–6.
- Diniz SN, Carvalho KC, Cisalpino PS, et al. Expression in bacteria of the gene encoding the gp43 antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: immunological reactivity of the recombinant fusion proteins. *Clinical and diagnostic laboratory immunology* 2002; 9(6): 1200-1204.
- Shikanai-Yasuda MA; Filho FQT, Mendes RP, et al. Grupo de Consultores do Consenso em Paracoccidioidomicose. Consenso em paracoccidioidomicose. *Revista*

da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical 2006; 39(3): 297-310.

Taborda CP, Camargo ZP. Diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis by dot immunobinding assay for antibody detection using the purified and specific antigen gp43. *Journal of clinical microbiology* 1994; 32(2): 554-556.

Saraiva EC, Altemani A, Franco MF, et al. Paracoccidioides brasiliensis-gp43 used as paracoccidioidin. *J Med Vet Mycol* 1996; 34(3): 155–161.

Taba MRM, da Silveira JF, Travassos LR, et al. Expression in *Escherichia coli* of a gene coding for epitopes of a diagnostic antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. *Experimental mycology* 1989; 13(3): 223-230.

Cisalpino PS, Puccia R, Yamauchi LM, et al. Cloning, characterization, and epitope expression of the major diagnostic antigen of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 1996; 271(8): 4553-4560.

Carvalho KC, Vallejo MC, Camargo ZP, et al Use of recombinant gp43 isoforms expressed in *Pichia pastoris* for diagnosis of paracoccidioidomycosis. *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology* 2008; 15(4): 622-629.

Pan American Health Organization. Leishmaniasis: Epidemiological Report of the Americas. 2015. Available:

<[http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_topics&view=article&id=29&Itemid=40754](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=article&id=29&Itemid=40754)> Accessed: 19 may 2016.

Suzuki E, Toledo MS, Takahashi HK, et al. A monoclonal antibody directed to terminal residue of  $\beta$ -galactofuranose of a glycolipid antigen isolated from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*: cross-reactivity with *Leishmania major* and *Trypanosoma cruzi*. *Glycobiology* 1997; 7(4): 463-468

Mendes-Giannini MJS, Melhem MC. Infecções fúngicas. In: Ferreira AW, Àvila SLM *Diagnóstico Laboratorial das principais doenças infecciosas e auto-imunes*. Guanabara-Koogan São Paulo 2001.

Amaral AC. Avaliação da reatividade cruzada entre antígenos de *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* e *Leishmania amazonensis*. Dissertação apresentada ao programa de

Patologia Experimental da Universidade Estadual de Londrina. 2012. Available: <<http://www.bibliotecadigital.uel.br/document/?code=vtls000178278>> Accessed in 20 jan 2016

Silveira LH, Domingos IH, Kouchi K, et al. Serological detection of antibodies against *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* in dogs with leishmaniasis. *Mycopathologia* 2006;162: 325-329.

Camargo ZP, Unterkircher C, Campoy SP, et al. Production of *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* exoantigens for immunodiffusion test. *J Clin Microbiol* 1988; 26: 2147–2151.

Assunção TRS. Desenvolvimento de método para diagnóstico da paracoccidioidomicose humana utilizando antígeno recombinante de *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. Dissertação apresentada ao programa de Patologia Experimental da Universidade Estadual de Londrina. 2012. Available: <<http://www.bibliotecadigital.uel.br/document/?code=vtls000172306>> Accessed: 20 jan 2016.

Eisele RC, Juliani LC, Belitardo DR et al. Immune response in dogs experimentally infected with *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. *Med Mycol* 2004; 42: 549–553.

Botteon FA, Camargo ZP, Benard G, et al. *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* reactive antibodies in Brazilian blood donors. *Med Mycol* 2002; 40: 387–391.

Blotta M H, Mamoni R L, Oliveira S J, et al. Endemic regions of paracoccidioidomycosis in Brazil: a clinical and epidemiologic study of 584 cases in the southeast region. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 1999; 61: 390-394.

Ono MA, Bracarense APFRL, Morais HAS, et al. Canine paracoccidioidomycosis: a seroepidemiologic study. *Medical Mycology* 2001; 39(3): 277-82.

Bianchini AAC, Petroni TF, Fedatto PF et al. Activation of the alternative complement pathway in canine normal serum by *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. *Brazilian Journal of Microbiology* 2009; 40(2): 234-237.

Brasil, Ministerio da Saúde. Secretaria de Vigilância em Saúde Departamento de

Vigilância Epidemiológica Centro de Informações Estratégicas de Vigilância em Saúde. Available: <[http://portalweb04.saude.gov.br/sinan\\_net/](http://portalweb04.saude.gov.br/sinan_net/)> Accessed 13 mar 2016.

França DCC, Monti LM, Castro AL, et al. Análise retrospectiva de 61 casos de Paracoccidioidomicose diagnosticados na faculdade de odontologia de Araçatuba/UNESP. *Revista Odontológica de Araçatuba* 2011; 32(1):09-14.

Sassi LM, Biazolla ER, Trompczynski I, et al. Manifestação bucal da paracoccidioidomicose. *Rev Int Estomatol* 2004; 1(2):57-61.

Mosmann TR, Schumacher JH, Street NF, et al. Diversity of cytokine synthesis and function of mouse CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells. *Immunol Rev* 1991; 123:209-29.

Castro FL, Ferreira MC, Silva RM, et al. Characterization of the immune response in human paracoccidioidomycosis. *Journal of Infection* 2013; 67: 470-485.

## 5 CONCLUSÃO

- O ELISA com gp43 recombinante (rGp43) e peptídeo sintético permitiu a detecção de anticorpos contra *P. brasiliensis* em amostras de soros de pacientes com paracoccidiodomicose, embora tenha ocorrido também reatividade em amostras de indivíduos sem a doença.
- O ELISA com rGp43 apresentou maior sensibilidade que o ELISA com peptídeo sintético.
- As técnicas de *nested*-PCR e PCR-ELISA, permitiram a detecção de *P. brasiliensis* em amostra de escarro.
- Amostras de soro humano positivas para Leishmaniose apresentaram reatividade com gp43 recombinante, sugerindo a co-infecção com *P. brasiliensis*.