

Acknowledgments

We thank all agencies and their staffs involved in the control of kala-azar in Southern Sudan, in particular, Médecins sans Frontières.

Dr Kolaczinski is the Neglected Tropical Diseases and Public Health Specialist of the Malaria Consortium, Africa. He has a broad interest in infectious disease epidemiology and the design, implementation, and evaluation of control programs in resource-poor settings.

References

- Chappuis F, Sundar S, Hailu A, Ghalib H, Rijal S, Peeling RW, et al. Visceral leishmaniasis: what are the needs for diagnosis, treatment and control? *Nat Rev Microbiol.* 2007;5:873–82.
- Cattand P, Desjeux P, Guzmán MG, Jannin J, Kroeger A, Médecins A, et al. Tropical diseases lacking adequate control measures: dengue, leishmaniasis, and African trypanosomiasis. In: Jamison DT, Breman JG, Measham AR, Alleyne G, Claeson M, Evans, DB, et al., editors. *Disease control priorities in developing countries*. 2nd ed. New York: The World Bank and Oxford University Press; 2006 [cited 2008 Feb 9]. Available from <http://www.dcp2.org/pubs/DCP>
- Seaman J, Mercer AJ, Sondorp E. The epidemic of visceral leishmaniasis in western Upper Nile, Southern Sudan: course and impact from 1984–1994. *Int J Epidemiol.* 1996;25:862–71.
- Thomson MC, Elnaïem DA, Ashford RW, Connor SJ. Towards a kala-azar risk map for Sudan: mapping the potential distribution of *Phlebotomus orientalis* using digital data of environmental variables. *Trop Med Int Health.* 1999;4:105–13.
- Dereure J, Boni M, Pralong F, el Hadi Osman M, Bucheton B, El-Sa? S, et al. Visceral leishmaniasis in Sudan: ?rst identi?cations of leishmania from dogs. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 2000;94:154–5.
- Dereure J, El-Sa? SH, Bucheton B, Boni M, Kheir MM, Davoust B, et al. Visceral leishmaniasis in eastern Sudan: parasite identi?cation in humans and dogs; host-parasite relationships. *Microbes Infect.* 2003;5:1103–8.
- Zijlstra EE, El-Hassan AM. Leishmaniasis in Sudan. *Visceral leishmaniasis.* *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 2001;95(S1):27–58.
- Collin SM, Coleman PG, Ritmeijer K, Davidson RN. Unseen kala-azar deaths in South Sudan (1999–2002). *Trop Med Int Health.* 2006;11:509–12.
- Boelaert M, El-Sa? S, Hailu A, Mukhtar M, Rijal S, Sundar S, et al. Diagnostic tests for kala-azar: a multi-centre study of the freeze-dried DAT, rK39 strip test and KATex in East Africa and the Indian subcontinent. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 2008;102(1):32–40. Epub 2007 Oct 22.
- Melaku Y, Collin S, Keus K, Gatluak F, Ritmeijer K, Davidson R. Treatment of kala-azar in southern Sudan using a 17-day regimen of sodium stibogluconate combined with paromomycin: a retrospective comparison with 30-day sodium stibogluconate monotherapy. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2007;77:89–94.
- Reithinger R, Brooker S, Kolaczinski J. Visceral leishmaniasis in eastern Africa: current status. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 2007;101:1169–70.
- Ritmeijer K, Davies C, van Zorge R, Wang SJ, Schorscher J, Dongu?du SI, et al. Evaluation of a mass distribution programme for ?ne-mesh impregnated bednets against visceral leishmaniasis in eastern Sudan. *Trop Med Int Health.* 2007;12:404–14.
- Hill J, Lines J, Rowland M. Insecticide-treated nets. *Adv Parasitol.* 2006;61:77–128.

Address for correspondence: Jan H. Kolaczinski, Malaria Consortium Africa, PO Box 8045, Plot 2, Sturrock Rd, Kampala, Uganda; email: j.kolaczinski@malariaconsortium.org

etymologia

Leishmaniasis

[lēsh-ma'-ne-ə-sis]

Disease caused by protozoan parasites of the genus *Leishmania*, named in 1901 for British Army doctor William Leishman, who developed a stain to detect the agent. It is transmitted by the bite of certain species of sand ?y, including the genus *Lutzomyia* in the New World and *Phlebotomus* in the Old World.

Leishmaniasis has 2 major forms: cutaneous, characterized by skin sores, and visceral, which affects internal organs and is characterized by high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If untreated, the disease is universally fatal within 2 years. Visceral leishmaniasis is also called kala-azar, a Hindi term meaning “black fever.” The causal agent, *Leishmania donovani*, was also named for physician Charles Donovan, who discovered the agent in India in 1903. An estimated 500,000 cases occur each year; India has the greatest number, followed by Bangladesh, Brazil, Nepal, and Sudan.

Source: Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary, 31st edition. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2007; <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,987111-6,00.html>; <http://www.who.int/topics/leishmaniasis/en>