

Abstract:

The complement fixation test using homologous parasite antigen was evaluated in 60 individuals with confirmed visceral leishmaniasis and compared with the results obtained in individuals with other parasitic and infectious diseases; 88% of the confirmed cases of visceral leishmaniasis were positive whilst no positive reactions were observed in individuals with other infectious and parasitic diseases. The specificity was partially compromised by anticomplementary activity in 5%, limited to individuals with visceral leishmaniasis, and doubtful (2%) or sero-negative (7%) results.