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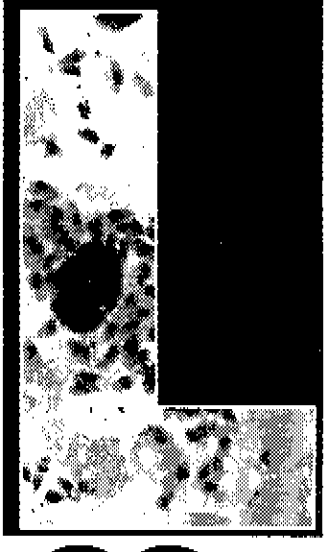

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF 692 RETROSPECTIVE CASES *of* LEISHMANIA/HIV CO - INFECTION

World Health Organization
Division of Control of Tropical Diseases

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF 692 RETROSPECTIVE CASES OF *LEISHMANIA*/HIV CO - INFECTIONS

by: Dr P. Desjeux [1], Dr J. Alvar [2], Dr L. Gradoni [3], Dr M. Gramiccia [3], Dr F.J. Medrano [4], Dr M. Deniau [5], Dr M. Portus [6], Dr F. Laguna [2], Dr F. Farault- Gambarelli [7], Dr C. Montalban [8], Dr P. Marty [9], Dr E. Rosenthal [9], Dr T. Gemetchu [10], Dr R. Russo [11], Dr J.P. Dedet [12], Dr Dr S. Matheron [13] and Dr F. Antunes [14].

(1) World Health Organization, CTD/TRY, Geneva, Switzerland
(2) Instituto De Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain
(3) Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Roma, Italy
(4) Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio, Sevilla, Spain
(5) Centre Hospitalier et Universitaire, Créteil, France
(6) Facultad de Farmacia, Barcelona, Spain
(7) Faculté de Médecine, Marseille, France
(8) Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Madrid, Spain
(9) Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Nice, France
(10) National Institute of Pathobiology, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(11) Istituto di Malattie Infettive, Catania, Italy
(12) Faculté de Médecine, Montpellier, France
(13) Groupe Hospitalier Bichat-Claude Bernard, Paris, France
(14) Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisboa, Portugal

At a Joint Consultative Meeting on *Leishmania*/HIV Co-Infections held in Rome in September 1994 by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, and the Division of Control of Tropical Diseases (CTD) of the World Health Organization (WHO), a standardized Case Report Form and Guidelines for Diagnosis were finalized and endorsed. At this meeting a recommendation was also made to create a Central Registry to be located in WHO/CTD to collect, process and to periodically rediffuse worldwide basic information.

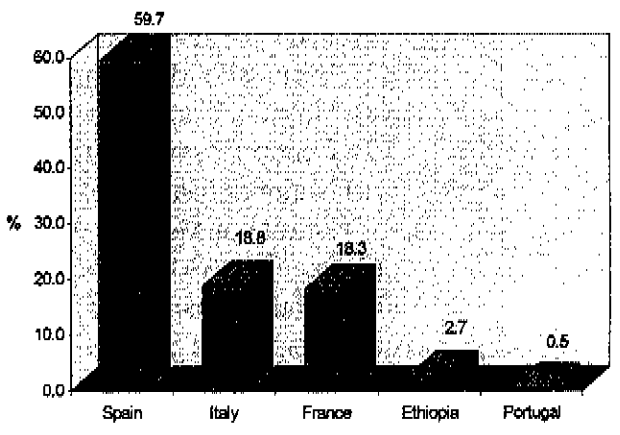
The overlap of visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and AIDS is on the increase due to the spread of the AIDS pandemic in rural areas and that of VL in suburban areas. Consequently, cases of co-infections are more frequent, with important clinical, diagnostic, chemotherapeutic, epidemiological and economic complications. *Leishmania*/HIV co-infection is regarded as **an emerging disease**, especially in southern Europe, where 25 - 70 % of adult VL cases are related to HIV infection, and 1.5 - 9 % of AIDS cases suffer from newly acquired or reactivated VL.

MAIN RESULTS

I) GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN

97.3 % of the cases originate from **southern Europe** with a clear predominance in **Spain:**

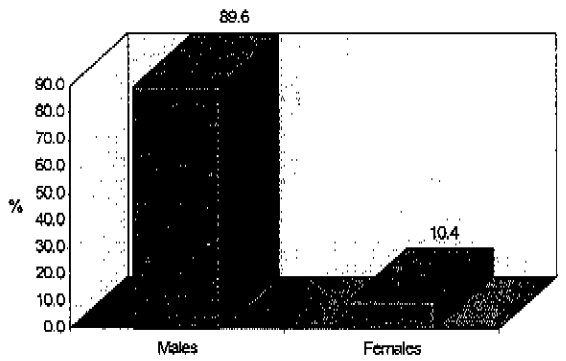
- **Spain:**	**413**	**59.7 %**
- Italy:	130	18.8 %
- France:	127	18.3 %
- Ethiopia:	19	2.7 %
- Portugal:	3	0.5 %
TOTAL:	*692*	*100 %*



II) SEX DISTRIBUTION

Most of the cases are **males:**

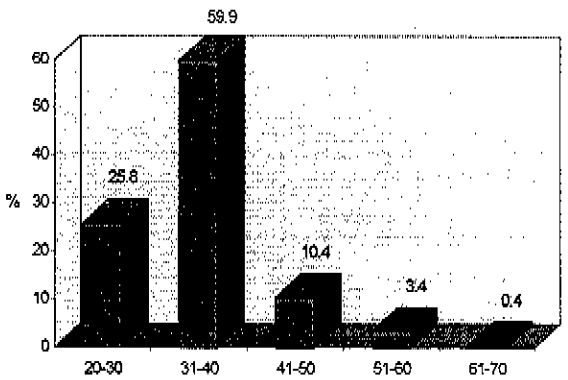
- Males:	**620**	**89.6 %**
- Females:	72	10.4 %
TOTAL:	*692*	*100 %*



III) AGE DISTRIBUTION

Young adults represent **85.7 %** of the cases:

- 20 to 30 years old	**121**	**25.8 %**
- 31 to 40 years old	**281**	**59.9 %**
- 41 to 50 years old	49	10.4 %
- 51 to 60 years old	16	3.4 %
- 61 to 70 years old	2	0.4 %
TOTAL:	*469*	*100 %*

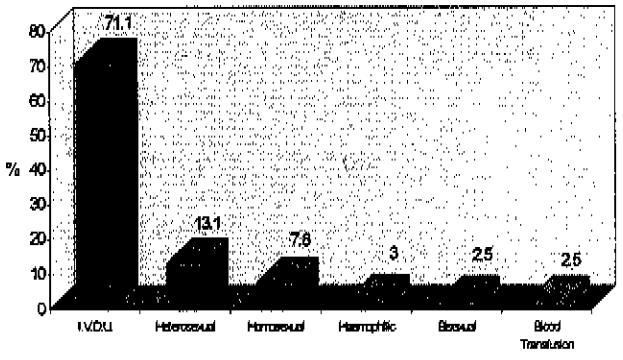


The distribution according to age and sex reflects the main population at risk (see below).

IV) RISK GROUPS

There is a predominance among **intravenous drug users (IVDU)** who are clearly identified as the **main population at risk**:

- **IVDU:**	**311**	**71.1 %**
- Heterosexual:	57	13.1 %
- Homosexual:	34	7.8 %
- Haemophilic:	13	3 %
- Bisexual:	11	2.5 %
- Blood transfusion:	11	2.5 %
TOTAL:	*437*	*100 %*



V) MAIN RISK GROUPS BY COUNTRY

Country	No. of cases	Homosex.	Heterosex.	**IVDU**	Bisex.	Blood transf.	Haemophil.
France	75	14.7 %	10.7 %	**69.3 %**	1.3 %	4 %	-
Italy	128	6.2 %	8.6 %	**79.7 %**	3.1 %	0.8 %	1.6 %
Spain	212	7.1 %	9.4 %	**73.6 %**	1.4 %	3.3 %	5.2 %
Ethiopia	19		**94.7 %**		5.3 %		

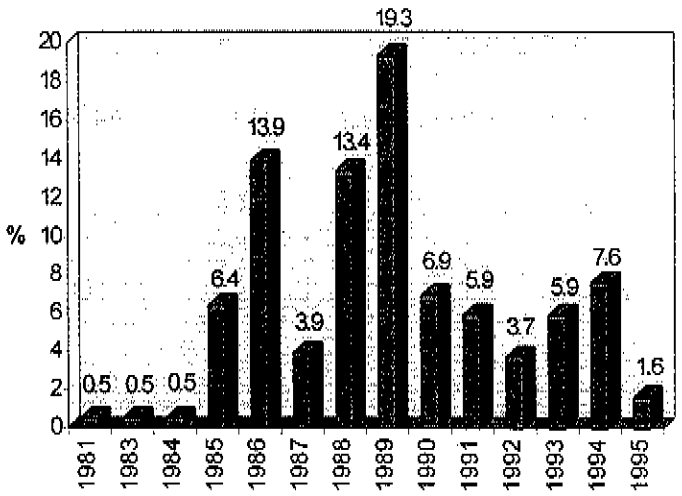
There is evidence that the main population at risk is the same (IVDU) in southern France, Italy and Spain. However in **Ethiopia, co-infected cases are reported exclusively among heterosexuals.**

VI) DATES OF HIV DIAGNOSIS

Yearly distribution of reported HIV cases:

- 1981:	1	0.5 %
- 1983:	1	0.5 %
- 1984:	1	0.5 %
- 1985:	12	6.4 %
- 1986:	26	13.9 %
- 1987:	26	3.9 %
- 1988:	25	13.4 %
- 1989:	**36**	**19.3 %**
- 1990:	13	6.9 %
- 1991:	11	5.9 %
- 1992:	7	3.7 %
- 1993:	11	5.9 %
- 1994:	14	7.6 %
- 1995:*	3	1.6 %

TOTAL: 187 (100 %)



* Only first trimester covered

VII) DATES OF LEISHMANIASIS DIAGNOSIS

Yearly distribution of reported leishmaniasis cases:

- 1985:	3	0.6 %
- 1986:	3	0.6 %
- 1987:	8	1.7 %
- 1988:	13	2.7 %
- 1989:	16	3.3 %
- 1990:	31	6.5 %
- 1991:	83	17.5 %
- 1992:	67	14 %