

Diferenciación de Entamoeba histolytica / entamoeba dispar y los nuevos hallazgos en la patogénesis de la intestinal amibiasis.

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Diferenciación de Entamoeba histolytica / entamoeba dispar y los nuevos hallazgos en la patogénesis de la intestinal amibiasis.

REYES, L and LEON, R.

Apdo. 75-10100, San José, Costa Rica, San José, San José, CR, 10105-1000, (506) 22216193

Abstract

The introduction of molecular techniques allowed the differentiation of *Entamoeba histolytica* from *E. dispar*, a comensal ameba morphologically indistinguishable from *E. histolytica*. Pathogenic mechanisms of *E. histolytica* includes the presence of a galactosa binding lectin that attaches trophozoites to intestinal epithelial cells. Also pore-forming peptides termed amebopores have been demonstrated, this peptides oligomerize after insertion in the cell membrane and form waterfilled channels through which ions and other molecules can pass, causing cell lysis. Cysteine proteasas have also been characterized as a virulence factor responsible of the degradation of the extracellular matrix and the evasion of the immune response by degradation of IgA, disruption of IgG, and degradation of anaphylotoxins C3a and C5a. The new epidemiological findings around the world by the use of molecular technics are also discussed. In Costa Rica seroprevalence of 7,3% in *E. histolytica* / *E. dispar* cysts positive patients is taken an indication that the majority of the infections are caused by *E. dispar*. Antibody are present only in *E. histolytica* infection. As far as diagnosis, the finding of trofozoites with engulfed eritrocytes in fresh fecal samples or biopses correlates with *E. histoyica*. On the other hand, cysts of both protozoa are indistinguishable. Several immunological technics are available for the determination of antigen in stool samples or antibodies in sera.

Keywords : pathogenesis; epidemiology; diferencial diagnosis.

Reference

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