

INTRODUCTION

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Leishmaniasis is an infection with parasites of the genus Leishmania. It is usually a zoonosis transmitted by phlebotomine sandflies between wild and peridomestic animals, especially rodents and canines. Man is infected when he interrupts the natural cycle. In man, the infection is either visceral, mucocutaneous or cutaneous. Visceral leishmaniasis is caused by Leishmania donovani (**Bryceson, 1975**).

Old World cutaneous leishmaniasis (OWCL) is caused by species of L. tropica, L. major and L. aethiopica. Oriental leishmaniasis, representing Old World cutaneous leishmaniasis, is endemic in countries of the Middle East and Central Asia, as well as in India, North Africa and the European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea (**Chong, 1986 and Barsky, et al., 1978**).

Old World cutaneous leishmaniasis is also known as oriental sore, Delhi boil, Biskra button, button de Crête, bouton d'Alep, Aleppo evil and caneotica (**Manson-Bahr and Apted, 1982**).