

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo PIBIC

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Service (sector)

Cornea and External Disease

Nº CEP

Polimerase chain reaction for detection of Chlamydia trachomatis in patients with chronic allergic conjunctivitis

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Purpose: The purpose of this study was to detect Chlamydia trachomatis by polimerase chain reaction (PCR) in patients with chronic allergic conjunctivitis, comparing to a control group.

Methods One hundred and sixty six patients were divided in two groups, 87 with chronic allergic conjunctivitis and 79 with no signs of ocular allergy. The material was scrapped from the superior palpebral conjunctiva in the right eye and the nucleic acid was then extracted. The first PCR was performed to detect human DNA to avoid false negative. Only the samples with human DNA were submitted to a second PCR to detect Chlamydia trachomatis.

Results: In group A, 69% of the samples presented human DNA and 12 were positive for Chlamydia trachomatis (20%). In group B, human DNA was found in 64.5% of the samples and 3.9% were positive. Only 2 patients in group A presented clinical signs of trachoma.

Conclusion: The results showed that there were association between chronic allergic conjunctivitis and trachoma. Although the diagnosis of trachoma is considered essentially clinical, the disease may not be detected in patients with allergic conjunctivitis. We suggest routinely test for Chlamydia trachomatis, patients with chronic allergic conjunctivitis.