

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo PIBIC

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PG Estagiário Tecnólogo

To study the characteristics of the laboratory diagnosis of Acanthamoeba keratitis and its changes during the last thirteen years.

Morales, A.C.L, Hofling-Lima, A.L., Farah, M.E., Alvarenga, L.S., Yu, M.C.Z.

Methods:. All the charts of the Ocular Microbiology Laboratory of the Department of Ophthalmology - Paulista School of Medicine, from 1987 (first case) to May 2000, were reviewed. Data from samples with a request for detection of Acanthamoeba on smears or cultures were analyzed

Results: One hundred eight-seven samples were included in this study. Corneal scrapings were the most common samples analyzed (74.3%) followed by contact lenses (20.3%) and saline (2.1%). During the last three years there was an increase in the number of request for Acanthamoeba detection comprising 73.7% of all the samples. Acanthamoeba was detected in 26.4% of the corneal smears and 35.6% of the cultured corneal scrapings. In eyes with smears and cultures taken at the same time (n=125) the sensitivity of the cultures (92%) was higher than the smears (60%).

Conclusions: There was an important increase in the clinical suspicion and detection of Acanthamoeba keratitis during the studied period. Specific culture for Acanthamoeba, on non-nutrient agar with an overlay of E. coli, was more sensitive for the laboratory diagnosis of Acanthamoeba than smears.