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Correlation among the anatomicopathological and microbiologic results of exams in the infectious keratitis.

Authors: Francisco Irochima Pinheiro, Luciana Afonso Pires, Maria Cristina Martins, Acácio Alves de Souza Lima Filho, Ana Luísa Höfling de Lima. **Purpose:** To compare the results of the anatomicopathological and microbiologic exams in the infectious keratitis. **Method:** The anatomicopathological and microbiologic (bacterioscopy and culture for *Acanthamoeba*, bacteria and fungus) results of exams were analyzed using 28 samples of corneas with clinical diagnosis of infectious keratitis. They were sent to the ophthalmology laboratory of São Paulo of Medicine School (EPM) between 1998 and 2004. **Results:** It's been found that 15 out of 28 samples (53.6%) had the etiological diagnosis established by the anatomicopathological exam. In 24 samples (85.7%) the microbiologic exam also identified the agent. In 04 exams (14.3%) the agent was not identified when both methods were applied. In all of the samples that the anatomicopathological exam identified the etiological agent, the microbiologic exam was also capable to do it, except in one case of keratitis by *Acanthamoeba sp.* In that samples only the anatomicopathological exam established the diagnosis. Ten samples (35.7%) were positive for specific agents only through the microbiologic exam and not for the pathology. Seven out of fourteen samples when both methods were capable to find the etiological agent were considered positive for *Acanthamoeba sp.* In these cases, the microbiology supplied co-infection additional diagnosis mainly for coccus positive gram as such *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Streptococcus viridans*. This was not observed by the anatomicopathological exam only. **Conclusion:** It's been concluded that the bacterioscopy and the culture for *Acanthamoeba*, bacteria and fungus were shown more efficient in terms of identifying the etiological agents in infectious keratitis than using the anatomicopathological exam only.