

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
AMERICAS



Webinar – Launch and publishing of the Guideline for Treatment of Leishmaniasis in the Americas

Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Time: 3:00 PM EDT –

Eastern Daylight Time (USA and Canada)

Zoom Platform with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, English and Portuguese

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Leishmaniasis remains neglected infectious diseases of great importance, as they mainly affect the poorest people with the least access to health services. In the Americas, it is a public health problem due to its morbidity, mortality, and wide geographical distribution.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) continues to support endemic countries to achieve the goals of control and elimination of leishmaniasis as a public health problem, in accordance with the mandate given by the PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative, and in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Road Map for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030. Therefore, actions such as access to early diagnosis, adequate case treatment and reduction of contact between people and vectors have been promoted.

In the Region of the Americas, leishmaniasis is caused by several species of *Leishmania* that can compromise the skin, mucosal and viscera. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is endemic in 18 countries and is the most frequent form in the Region. About 90% of cases present as localized, single, or multiple lesions, however, other clinical cutaneous forms, such as disseminated and the diffuse cutaneous, are more difficult to treat and present frequent relapses. The mucosal form accounts for about 4% of leishmaniasis cases and is a grave clinical form, as it causes significant mutilation and disability if not diagnosed and treated early. Visceral leishmaniasis is endemic in 13 countries of the Region and is the most severe form, as it can cause death in up to 90% of untreated people.

The choice of treatment for leishmaniasis depends on many factors, such as clinical form, therapeutic scheme, its efficacy, toxicity, and cost, as well as the acceptability and adherence by the patient. Responses to leishmaniasis treatments have been heterogeneous, depending on the species of the parasite, geographical location, immunogenic profile of the affected person and the general relationship of the parasite with its vectors, reservoirs, and hosts. In recent years, new evidence has been published, so priority has been given to updating the therapeutic recommendations, given the burden of the disease in the Region in terms of incidence, quality of life, access, and costs.

In this regard, **PAHO presents the Guideline for the Treatment of Leishmaniasis in the Americas**, which is the result of joint work with experts from the Region. This publication presents the update of the therapeutic recommendations, detailing the schemes and criteria for the indication of treatment for cutaneous, mucosal, and visceral leishmaniasis in the regional context, in accordance with the standards for the development of PAHO/WHO guidelines, using the GRADE methodology. Thus, some of the recommendations presented for the Americas may differ from the specific recommendations from other continents in view of the distinct epidemiological and biological aspects, such as the different circulating species of *Leishmania*, transmission cycles and therapeutic responses.

We hope you can join us in this webinar to launch the new Guideline. The agenda is presented below.

AGENDA

Launch of the Guideline for Treatment of Leishmaniasis in the Americas

June 28, 2022

**03:00 – 04:20 pm EDT — Eastern
Daylight Time**

Location: Zoom - Click [here](#) to register

| Time | Activity |
|-------------------------|--|
| 03:00 - 03:05 pm | Opening of the activities <i>Ana Nilce Elkhoury - PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 03:05 - 03:15 pm | Opening remarks <i>Luís Gerardo Castellanos - PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 03:15 - 03:25 pm | GRADE methodology: process of elaboration of the Guideline <i>Ana Marcela Torres – PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 03:25 - 03:35 pm | Important differences between the 2013 treatment recommendations and the current <i>Ana Nilce Elkhoury – PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 03:35 - 03:40 pm | Presentation of the leishmaniasis video |
| 03:40 - 03:55 pm | Main treatment recommendations for cutaneous and mucosal leishmaniasis <i>Jaime Soto – Funderma y Dermatological Hospital of Jorochito, Bolivia</i> |
| 03:55 - 04:05 pm | Treatment recommendations for visceral leishmaniasis <i>Dorcas Lamounier Costa – Federal University of Piauí, Brazil</i> |
| 04:05 - 04:15 pm | PAHO/WHO Strategic Fund: Antileishmaniasis drugs and other supplies <i>Nora Giron – PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 04:15 - 04:20 pm | Final comments and closure of the activities <i>Ana Nilce Elkhoury – PAHO/WHO</i> |

Additional instructions:

The ZOOM platform will be used with simultaneous interpretation services in **Spanish, English and Portuguese.**