

Leishmaniasis

Intracellular protozoan parasite

Second largest parasitic killer globally (MSF data)

Transmitted by female sandflies

Considered 'tropical' but endemic in S. Europe incl France, Spain & Italy

Dogs are main reservoir

Three clinical presentations:

1. Cutaneous
2. Mucocutaneous
3. Visceral – parasites invade liver, spleen, BM

L. donovani

L. infantum

L. chagasi

- Fever
- Weight loss
- Massive hepatosplenomegaly
- Grey discoloration – 'kala-azar'
- Pancytopenia
- Hypergammaglobulinaemia
- Hypoalbuminaemia
- Well-recognised association with HIV
- Untreated, succumb to death from bacterial infection after about 18/12

Treatment:

AmBisome (liposomal amphotericin B)

alternatives: Pentavalent antimonials, Miltefosine, Paromomycin