

A STUDY ON THE CELL IMMUNITY STATUS
OF PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY MANIFESTED
BLASTOCYSTOSIS

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Abstract

Flowcytometric analysis was used to study the cell immunity status of 40 patients with abdominal symptoms and positive parasitological findings for *Blastocystis hominis* (more than 5 parasites per microscopic field). Reduced values of T-lymphocyte population (CD3+) and of T-cytotoxic subpopulations (CD8+) were found. The level of the subpopulation of NK cells (CD3-CD16+56+) was found to be higher than normal. The differences between normal values and those found were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). These values are indicative of the opportunistic nature of human blastocytosis.

Key words: *Blastocystis hominis*, blastocystosis, cell immune status

Introduction. The incidence of the so-called opportunistic infections increased over the last several years, and this increase in human pathology was attributed to the reduced natural immunity of humans under the influence of changes in the environment. Quite often, immunosuppressors, cytostatics, antibiotics and other drugs are administered for treatment of today's diseases, which weaken altogether the human immune system. The number of cases of AIDS, cancer, diabetes, leukoses and other conditions accompanied by marked immunological disturbances also increased.

Some parasitoses, e.g. toxoplasmosis, pneumocystosis, cryptosporidiosis, cyclosporidiosis, isosporiosis etc., can be included in a group of important opportunistic diseases. Blastocystosis is a comparatively new parasitic disease. Most findings concerning the spread of *Blastocystis hominis* and its morphological and biological features, as well as the clinical forms of blastocystosis were made in the last 25 years. The parasite is an intestinal protozoon widely spread throughout

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