

CLINICAL AND PARASITOLOGICAL PREVALENCE OF LEISHMANIASIS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN IN KEANA, AWE L. G. C. OF PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

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We report here cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis amongst school children aged between 6-22 years. The study was carried in Keana Village in the Jos plateau where 1120 students of primary/secondary schools were examined for active lesions. Smears were then made from lesions for confirmation by giemsa stained preparations for the presence of amastigotes.

The results are shown in Table.

The results are significant in view of possible occurrence of visceral leishmaniasis and its implication as an opportunistic infections

in cases of HIV infected individuals (J. Alvar et al., 1989, *J. Inf. Diseases*, 160: 560-561).

Attempts are now been made to characterize and classify *Leishmania* parasites from Nigeria using molecular techniques. This preliminary study will be the first attempt to characterize *Leishmania* from Nigeria.

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TABLE

The results showing the prevalence of leishmaniasis in school children in Keana, Awe L.G.C. of Plateau State, Nigeria

Schools	Number screened	Number positive	% of infection
G.G.S.S. Keana	350	20	5.71
G.S.S. Keana	180	18	10
K.S.P.S.	258	5	1.94
C.P.S.K.	332	20	6.02
Total	1120	63	5.63

G.G.S.S.K.: government girls secondary school Keana.
G.S.S.K.: government secondary school Keana.
K.S.P.S.: Keana south primary school
C.P.S.K.: central primary school Keana.

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