

## The diagnosis of "old world" cutaneous leishmaniasis

Reuven Bergman M.D, Depts of Dermatology and Pathology, Rambam Medical Center,  
and The Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, Haifa, Israel

"Old world" cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is endemic in Israel. It may imitate clinically various skin conditions. The means of diagnosis include histopathology, direct smear, parasite culture, and most recently polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Currently, PCR seems to be the most sensitive mean, and it is becoming the preferred first line diagnostic mean in Israel. Direct smear, parasite-culture and PCR requires prior clinical suspicion of CL, and the proper laboratory means and trained personnel. These may not be readily available in non-endemic and in poorly endemic regions of the world. Histopathology remains an important mean when CL is not suspected clinically, in the differential diagnosis of CL, and when other diagnostic means are not available for the above-mentioned reasons. The histopathological patterns, the pitfalls, and the differential diagnosis will be demonstrated and discussed.