

EFFECT OF HEPATOSPLENIC SCHISTOSOMIASIS MANSONI IN PLASMA CONCENTRATION OF LECITHIN-CHOLESTEROL ACYLTRANSFERASE (LCAT, EC 2.3.1.43)

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Schistosomiasis mansoni, an infection caused by *Schistosoma mansoni*, is one of the most important health problems in Northeast Brazil. The disease induces granulomatous lesion around worm eggs, in the liver. One of the main alterations found in this disease is the reduction of LCAT activity, a liver-produced enzyme that catalyzes the esterification of cholesterol in plasma. In this study, it was evaluated for the first time the concentration of LCAT in plasma of 33 patients, of both sexes, with the chronic phase of this disease by using an ELISA method (DAIICHI, Japan). LCAT concentration in plasma of schistosomiasis patients was reduced by 33% and 47 % for men and women, respectively, when compared to the control group. The results suggest that the decrease in LCAT activity is due to an impaired LCAT synthesis by the liver. Supported by CNPq and FACEPE.

Key words: Schistosomiasis, LCAT, Cholesterol