IDENTIFICATION OF THE CAUSATIVE AGENT OF DIFFUSE UNILATERAL SUBACUTE NEURORETINITIS IN RIO GRANDE DO NORTE STATE

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Diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis (DUSN) is a progressive parasitic disease affecting the outer retina, retinal pigment epithelium and is caused by subretinal nematodes. It affects children and young adults and can occur in one or both eyes. It is important cause of visual loss. The early stage shows inflammation and is followed by a late stage, characterized by narrowing of vessels, optic nerve pallor and changes in the retinal pigment epithelium. The diagnosis and treatment should be done in the early to prevent further visual loss and occasionally leads to sight improvement. The causative agent is believed to be one or more nematode species at larval stage. This study aims to identify the nematode species that causes DUSN in Rio Grande do Norte. Aqueous humorous from the anterior eye chamber was collected from patients with DUSN (n=30) and from subjects who underwent cataract surgery. Total DNA from aqueous humorous and from blood was amplified using a multiple displacement amplification reaction, followed by PCR, using random and specific primers for different nematode species. A single PCR band of 80 bp was obtained. Bands will be cloned and sequenced to determine the potential causative agent of DUSN.

Key Words: DUSN, Nematode, Rio Grande do Norte