Tripomastigotes de Trypanosoma cruzi

Trypomastigotes of Trypanosoma cruzi

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Trypanosoma cruzi is a pathogenic endemic protozoan of South America, the etiological agent of Chagas disease or American trypanosomiasis. The parasite are transmitted from Triatomas to mammalian hosts (including humans), through a bite when sucking blood. *T. cruzi* intracellular infection can cause death. Although Chagas disease presents an acute febrile phase, it is in the chronic phase that disease is usually detected and typical clinical features (mega-organs and chagasic cardiopathy) are shown[1,2].

Trypomastigote has a subterminal or terminal kinetoplast and posterior nucleous, a centrally located nucleus, an undulating membrane and a flagellum running along the undulating membrane from posterior to anterior of the cell[3]. *T. cruzi* measure from 12-30 µm in length and presents four morphological forms: amastigote (3-5 µm), promastigote, epimastigote (<30 µm) and trypomastigote[4]. Chagas is a neglected tropical disease, whereas in Peru have been found the seropositive in 85% of population of a Nasca[5]. Furthermore, in Latin America there are an estimated of 16 to 18 million of infected people and 21 000 deaths per year[6].

The microphotographs were taken at Laboratorio de Parasitología, Metaxénicas y Zoonosis del Hospital Regional Lambayeque, from a clinical case attended in the same hospital.

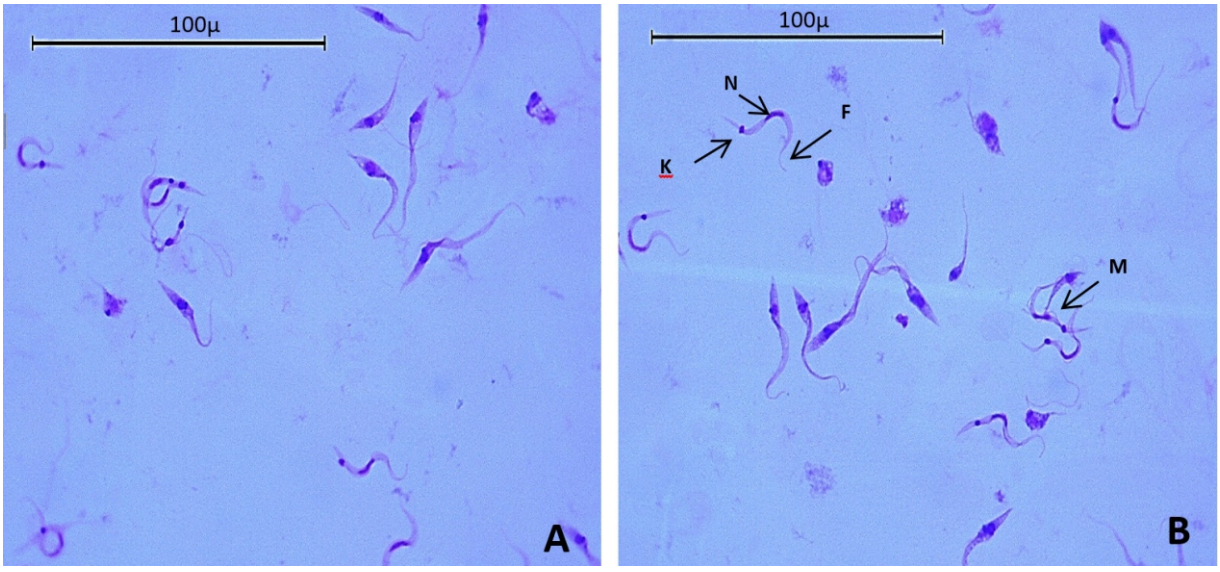

***Figure A, B**. Trypomastigote of Trypanosoma cruzi-in culture, N (nucleus), K (kinetoplast), F (Flagellum) and Mu (undulating membrane)*

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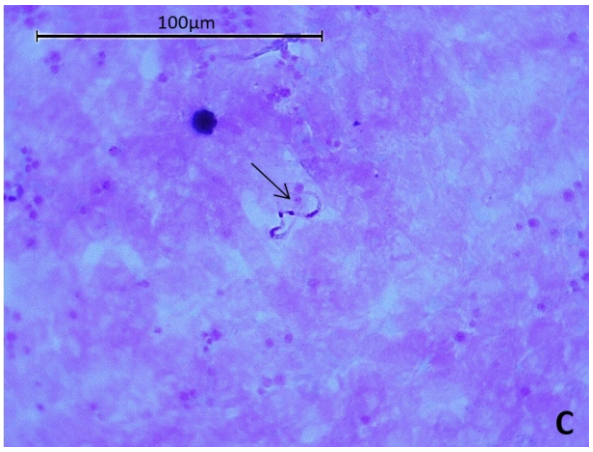

Figure C. *Trypanosoma cruzi - thick blood Smear Giemsa-staining. Note the typical C-shape of the trypomastigote*

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