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Cystic echinococcosis in Argentina: evolution of metacestode and clinical expression in various *Echinococcus granulosus* strains

## **Abstract -**

*Echinococcus granulosus* hydatid cysts were examined in 41 patients from Neuquén and Tucumán provinces in Argentina. Sequencing of the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 (CO1) revealed in 19 patients common sheep strain (G1), in 6 patients Tasmania sheep strain (G2), in 1 patient cattle strain (G5), and in 15 patients camel strain (G6).

In Argentina the only known is the domestic cycle that affects dogs and herbivorous, including ovine, swine, next term cattle and goats. These strains produced a total of 58.6% of primary liver infections, 29.2% primary in lung, 2.4% primary in spleen and 9.8% were multiorgan abdominal infections.

The metacestode was classified using the evolutive stages proposed by WHO-IWGE (from CE1 to CE5). We estimated that CE1 cyst has a duration of about 22 years, CE2 of 14 years, CE3 of 10 years, CE4 of 19 years and CE5 was not determined. The active types CE1 and CE2 reached 75% of all cases from all strains.

In 36 patients with cysts from G1, G5 and G6 strain, there were only two asymptomatic cases. The strains of the *E. granulosus* complex do not present important clinical differences; only G6 seems to have higher growth rate.

## **Key words**

: *E. granulosus* strains; Evolutive metacestode growth; Clinical symptoms; Ultrasography

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