Cutaneous leishmaniasis in the patients referred to medical laboratories in Mashhad, Iran
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Abstract
This study was conducted over four seasons from 2011 to 2012 on people referring to medical laboratories for diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis. To confirm the disease, a smear was prepared from of patients’ ulcer, then stained by Giemsa and examined by light microscope. From a total of 100 patients with cutaneous leishmaniasis, 58 percent were women and 42 percent were men. The highest rate of the disease was observed in the age group of 20-29 years (34%) and in the age group of 0-9 years (24%). According to confirmation of laboratory diagnosis, the highest rate of the disease (40%) was observed in patients in fall and the lowest rate (15%) was seen in spring. The results showed that 18% of patients had contact with dogs and rodents at home or office. A total of 217 ulcers were counted in 100 patients with the highest rate of ulcers observed in hands and face and the lowest rate seen in legs. In this study, 76% of patients had dry ulcers and the rest had wet ulcers. The results of the study indicate a relatively high prevalence of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Mashhad. Given the results, health authorities need to pay attention to control and prevent the disease.

Keywords: Cutaneous, Leishmania, mashhad

Introduction
Cutaneous leishmaniasis is seen in two urban and rural forms in Iran, each with numerous centers. Rural cutaneous leishmaniasis due to Leishmania major and urban cutaneous leishmaniasis is due to Leishmania tropica [1]. Mashhad is one of the known centers of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Iran, and from 1998 to 2009 a total of 34,958 patients were reported from four health centers of Mashhad with the highest and lowest contamination reported as 15.9% in 2002 and as 2.3% in 2000, respectively [2]. In a study, 55 cutaneous leishmaniasis cases from Mashhad were studied by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RFLP-PCR) method to determine the type of Leishmania species where 38 cases (66%) of Leishmania tropica and 17 cases (34%) of leishmania major were diagnosed [3]. Over the past few years, Mashhad has gone through substantial demographic and geographic changes because of immigrant’s population increase, which have affected the prevalence and incidence of the disease. Hence, it is necessary to have enough information on the