

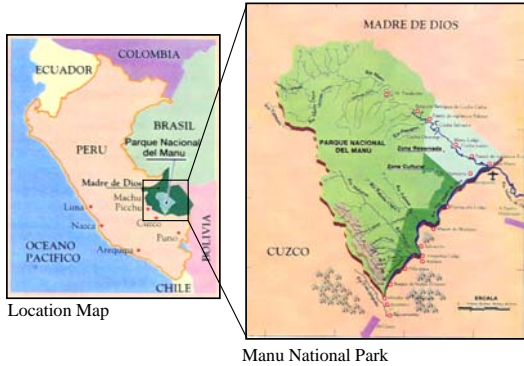


Tourists and Leishmaniasis

Knowledge and Behaviour of Tourists to Manu National Park, Peru in Relation to Leishmaniasis: Preliminary Findings

Irmgard Bauer

James Cook University, Australia



BACKGROUND

- With the increase of tourism to tropical destinations, the need for travel health advice has increased
- American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL) is rarely included in this advice
- Numerous cases of tourists with ACL (*L. braziliensis*) have been described (eg. Melby '92, Caumes '95)
- Lack of education for travellers has been pointed out (eg. Herwald '93)

AIMS OF THE STUDY

To describe the knowledge and behaviour of tourists booked on a tour to Manu National Park in relation to leishmaniasis and its prevention
To investigate if there is a difference in behaviour between tourists who have received information and those who have not received information

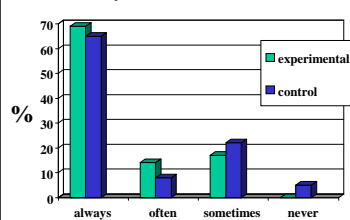
METHOD

One tour operator in Cusco/Peru provided the experimental group of clients, a second one the control group. At the briefing the evening before the trip, the experimental group completed Questionnaire I and then received the information leaflet. After returning from Manu they completed Questionnaire II. The control group received no information.

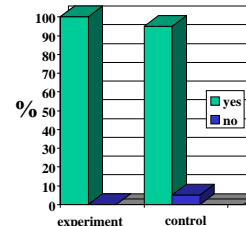
RESULTS

Description of the Sample				
	Experimental (n = 64)		Control (n = 134)	
	n	%	n	%
Gender				
Male	32	50	64	48
Female	32	50	70	52
Age				
Years (x)	42		38	
Occupation				
Health Prof.	9	14	7	6
Scientist	6	9	12	9
Other	48	77	111	85
First visit to Manu	64	100	133	99
Other tropical rainforests visited				
Yes	23	36	33	25
No	41	64	101	75
Nights in Manu				
Mean	6		6	
Mode	8		6	

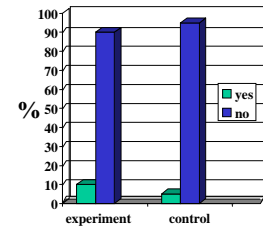
Travel Health Advice Seeking Behaviour: Normally seeks Travel Health Advice



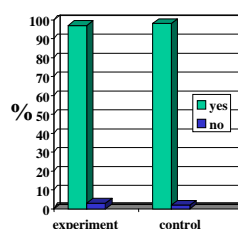
Sought Advice before this Trip



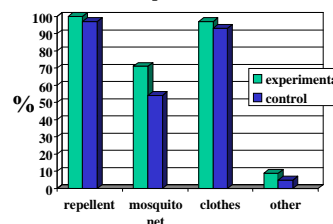
Received Advice on ACL



Preventive Measures Taken



Types of Measures Taken (Multiple Responses in %)



Additional Comments on Preventive Measures Taken

Despite following the measures correctly:
'I got eaten alive'
'virtually impossible not to get some bites'
'bitten 100x by flies etc.'
'still got bitten lots and lots'
'... still got significantly bitten'

INFORMATION LEAFLET

59 (92%) of the 64 tourists read the leaflet.
The leaflet was informative (59; 100%).
The leaflet was easy to read (59; 100%).
There was no unnecessary information (58; 98%).
25 (43%) wanted more information (photos of ulcer, detailed treatment, more on disease...)
The leaflet should be distributed by travel agents (30), tour operators (29), family doctor/GP (28).

Additional Comments on Leaflet:

'never heard of the disease'
'did not know about the disease before reading the leaflet'
'information needs to be available BEFORE we travel'
'would have been good to know before we arrived'

IMPACT OF THE LEAFLET

30% of tourists (17, n = 56) claimed to have paid more attention to preventive measures after reading the information leaflet.

BUT

There was no significant difference between the groups in preventive measures taken.

CONCLUSION

Advice on ACL needs to be included in travel health advice for travellers to endemic area.
Further detailed research is recommended into health education and tourist behaviour in relation to vector-borne diseases



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

International Society of Travel Medicine funded this project.
Manu Expeditions and Pantiacolla Tours in Cusco allowed access to their clients and conducted the data collection.
The Cartography Centre, JCU helped produce this poster.