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Infection of hematopoietic stem cells by *Leishmania infantum* increases erythropoiesis and alters the phenotypic and functional profiles of progeny

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ABSTRACT

Immunosuppression is a well-established risk factor for Visceral Leishmaniasis. Post-immunosuppression leishmaniasis is characterized by an increase of parasite burden, hematopoietic disorders and unusual clinical manifestations. Although there are many reports on bone marrow findings in VL, less is known about the relationship between parasite dynamics in this organ and the function of either hematopoietic stem cells and progenitor cells themselves. In the present study, we tackle these issues using a new approach of infecting human stem cells derived from bone marrow with *L.*