



PROJECT TITLE	BERENICE - Benznidazol and Triazol Research group for Nanomedicine and Innovation on Chagas disease – Proposal nº305937-1.FP7 Health2012
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Chagas disease is a chronic, systemic, parasitic infection caused by protozoan <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> . It's a neglected tropical diseases considered endemic in all countries of South America. In 1980s, 100 million people were estimated to be at risk of infection, and 17.4 million were infected in 18 endemic countries. Although the therapeutic alternatives for the disease are limited: benznidazole and nifurtimox are the only 2 drugs available for treatment. The main limitations in the use of Benznidazole is its high rate of toxicity. New developments in innovation based on lipid nanoformulations would alleviate the limitations of current Chagas treatment. The new formulations obtained under the scope of the project are expected to improve the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of actual Chagas disease therapies by decreasing the total dose of drug used, minimizing the toxicity profile, reducing the appearance of resistance and increasing the tissue concentration. Furthermore the cure rate up to 10 times with a lower cost.
OBJECTIVES	Obtain a more effective, better tolerated and cheaper formulation of a drug with trypanocidal activity to cure Chagas disease.
IMPLEMENTATION	Compilation of disperse knowledge on Chagas disease and its existing treatments; Develop and test two new innovative formulations of Benznidazole; Development of clinical trials; Dissemination, exploitation and management of the results.
FUNDING AGENCY	European Commission: FP7-HEALTH-2012-INNOVATION-1
COORDINATOR INSTITUTION	Institut Catala de la Salut, Hospital Universitari Vall Hebrón
DURATION	2012-2018
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	Israel Molina (PI) (ICS-HUVH) Marcelo Silva (GHTM/IHMT)
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