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# A clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a novel DNA vaccine used in combination with meglumine antimoniate as immunotherapy during *leishmania*sis

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Twenty leishmaniotic dogs from a leishmaniasis-endemic area (Naples, Italy) were enrolled in a clinical trial and were randomly assigned to receive three consecutive subcutaneous injections of vaccine at 10-days intervals (n=10\20), saline placebo (n=10\20). All dogs received chemotherapy with meglumine antimoniate (100mg7kg\30days\sc) starting on day 0. The vaccine was safe and well tolerated. *Leishmania* DNA load, IFAT, INF-γ and IL4 mRNA expression levels were tested before and after the therapy, every 3 months for a period of 12 months. Analysis of the data indicated that the vaccine was safe and immunogenic in CVL dogs and appeared to shorten their time to cure when used in combination with meglumine antimoniate chemotherapy.

## Biography

Laura Manna has completed her PhD in the University of Naples on the 1998. Since 2005, she is a Researcher of Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Productions of University of Naples. Her research interest is to develop a protective vaccine for the prevention and treatment of *leishmania*sis. She has published many papers in international journals.

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