

Species specific PCR assay for detection of *L. donovani* in clinical samples

Salient features of the technology:

- This assay is applicable for diagnosis of kala-azar using blood samples and for diagnosis of post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) using DNA from lesion tissue biopsy.
- Oligonucleotide primers targeting kinetoplast DNA, specific for *Leishmania donovani* has been designed.
- PCR was standardized and sensitivity as well specificity of the assay was established. The assay was sensitive enough to detect a single parasite with 100% specificity.
- The assay was further validated in the field in collaboration with BHU.
- The technology has been developed upto laboratory scale and developed by NIOP, Delhi (an ICMR Institute).