

# Cutaneous Leishmaniosis Treatment Access

26 January 2018

## **BACKGROUND**

- Cutaneous leishmaniosis is transmitted exclusively through bites from the female phlebotomine sand fly and can result in open sores as well as disfiguring skin lesions, nodules or papules if left untreated. Most predominant infection is on the skin, face, arms. It does not spread person-person.
- Then the lesion is opened and exposed to surinfection if untreated and can cause terrible scars.
- The treatment is given by cutaneous-lesions injections for a duration up to 6 weeks at a rate of one visit per week/patient. 5 lesions and below
- As for patients with multi lesions, it takes 21 consecutive days and in addition they have undergo two laboratory tests and one EKG to rule out any secondary effect of the medicine toxicity.

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## **BACKGROUND**

- Leishmaniosis has been prevalent in Syria for many years. Until 1960, the disease was restricted to two areas, Aleppo and Damascus.
- However, as Syria's civil war continues the resulting refugee crisis has reportedly triggered another outbreak, with the regions most affected under Isis control.
- With the influx of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Many families who fled the war were affected, and mostly were children below 10 years of age.
- Increasing Media and Pub reporting on disfiguring tropical disease cutaneous leishmaniosis is 'sweeping' across the Middle East.

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## **Communicable Disease Response**

UNHCR along WHO and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has been collaborating to ensure treatment is received in Lebanon.

## **Actions jointly taken**

- MoPH established 12 specialized clinics in Government hospitals
- WHO training physicians on treatment protocols; supplying additional drugs and medical supplies for free;
- UNHCR and partners supported financially the consultations and supplies; and following up closely with patients to avoid any contagion and prevent related complications.
- By 2017 More than 1860 affected patients were successfully treated.

# Cutaneous Leishmaniosis Epidemiology

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## Ministry of Public Health Epidemiology Surveillance

- <https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/2/193/esu>
- [https://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/Esu\\_data/Esu\\_currentyear/SYRNRF.htm](https://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/Esu_data/Esu_currentyear/SYRNRF.htm)



*Lebanese*

**Epi-Monitor**  
*Updates & Reviews*

**Republic of Lebanon**  
**Ministry of Public Health**

*Notifiable Communicable Diseases*

Communicable Diseases Surveillance    Table LEBANON - Syrian Refugees    Year 2017 as on 02/01/2018

	TOTAL	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<b>Other Diseases</b>												
Leishmaniosis	<b>116</b>	9	13	40	18	8	3	12	4	3	6	0

<b>Other Diseases</b>	TOTAL	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-19 years	20-39 years	40-59 years	60+ years	Unknown age	Male	Female
Leishmaniosis	<b>116</b>	28	35	19	26	4	3	1	51	65

<b>Other Diseases</b>	TOTAL	North	Beqaa	Nabatieh	South	Mount-Lebanon	Beirut
Leishmaniosis	<b>116</b>	2	105	1	1	6	1

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- The number of cases of leishmaniosis has decreased dramatically over time. Till end of 2017 UNHCR was supporting treatment by paying doctors administering the treatment in Governmental hospitals OPD through IMC.
- Most at risk patients are those who are travelling back to Syria frequently where they are infected (116 cases in 2017) as there is no local transmission.
- Leishmaniosis treatment is available and free of charge in Syria.
- UNHCR will no longer be able to support doctors incentives through IMC for leishmaniosis care.

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- Refugees will have to contribute for the OPD consultations similar to Lebanese.
- Contribution per session per week is LBP 15,000; and LBP 20,000 (only in RHUH and Baalback clinics) for patients with five cutaneous lesions and below.
- While patients (with above 5 lesions) in need of 21 consecutive days treatment with intramuscular injections, would be paying LBP 20,000 per week.
- MoPH is sending a circular to all Government hospitals with leishmaniosis clinics to maintain access to leishmaniosis treatment.
- MOPH and WHO will continue to ensure free medication and supplies for injection at the current Gov. centres.

# Leishmaniosis treatment access in 2018

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## Government Hospitals Leishmaniosis Clinics

Area	Hospital	Telephone Numbers	Doctor and Treating Hours
Baalbek	Baalbek Governmental Hospital	08-370022	Mon (12 - 1:00 pm) Dr Jamal Othman
Beirut	Rafic Hariri University Governmental Hospital Beirut	01-830000	Dr. Ossayma Dhouny Wednesday 10.00- 11.00 Dr. Pierre Abi Hanna Tuesday 10.00-11.00
Halba	Halba Governmental hospital	06-693944 06-694455	Dr. Mohamad Ayoub Sat 13.00- 14.00
Saida	Saida Governmental Hospital	07-722136 07-721606	Dr Hussein Nassar Wednesday from 9.00-11.00
Zahle	Zahle Governmental Hospital	08-825601	Dr. Souleiman El Mais Tuesday (9 -11am)



## HEALTH SERVICES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN MOUNT LEBANON AND BEIRUT

***What to do if you  
need to see a  
doctor or go to  
hospital and  
what you have to  
pay?***



*The information contained in this brochure was updated in  
March 2018*

For more information: [www.refugees-lebanon.org](http://www.refugees-lebanon.org)

# Access to Leishmaniosis Treatment

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**ANY QUESTIONS**

**THANK YOU**