Infectious Diseases Prevalent in Peru
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Peru is a country with three distinct geographic regions: the Coast bordering the Pacific Ocean, the Highlands comprised of the Andes, and the Jungle covered by the Amazon Rainforest.

Hospital Nacional Cayetano Heredia
Lima, Peru

Participated in a 2 week rotation program created by the Public Health department at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia.

Rotated with Attendings through:
- Emergency Department
- Internal medicine
- Infectious Diseases Department

Malaria
Epidemiology in Peru

Two most common types of malaria in Peru:
- *Plasmodium falciparum*
- *Plasmodium vivax*

Blood smears are taken and used to determine whether the patient has P. falciparum (left) or P. vivax (right).

Malaria Diagnosis

Tuberculosis
Epidemiology in Peru

Peru has 15% of the TB cases in the Americas

The DOTS program has effectively improved treatment of TB through a system of diagnosing cases, 6-8 weeks of treatment with anti-TB drugs, and promoting adherence to the treatment regimen.

Tuberculosis Pathology

Infectious agent: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

The bacterium spreads through the lungs, forming hard nodules (tubercles) that break down respiratory tissues and form cavities in the lungs.

Pulmonary TB:

Leishmaniasis
Epidemiology in Peru

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease spread through sand fly bites. Two types are commonly found in Peru: *L. peruviana* and *L. braziliensis*

L. Peruviana is found in the highlands and affects children. *L. braziliensis* is found in the jungle and affects the men who work there.

Leishmaniasis
Clinical Presentation

Localized Cutaneous Leishmaniasis: painless, granulomatous lesion with defined edges at the bite site (pictured below)

Mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis: widespread with damage to the nose and mouth.

Conclusions

Infectious diseases abound in Peru, many of which are not often seen in the United States. Among these are Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Leishmaniasis. We are grateful to have observed the clinical presentations and treatments of these illnesses firsthand through our clinical rotations at UPCH.