**TREATMENT WITH CAPTOPRIL DECREASED SERUM C REACTIVE PROTEIN LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH MILD CHAGASIC CARDIOMYOPATHY**

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Background: Chagas Chronic Cardiomyopathy is the main cause of morbidity and mortality of cardiac origin, in individuals living in rural areas of Venezuela and Latin-American; no treatment is available to handle the disease.

Objective: To observe the effect of captopril on the inflammatory process of Chagasic Cardiomyopathy.

Methods: We select 31 patients with Chagas´ disease, diagnosed by ELISA and MABA using specific Trypanosoma cruzi recombinant antigens, clinical and epidemiological data. Doses of captopril were progressively increased from 18.75 to 75 mg/day in a total period of 24 weeks. Clinical, echocardiography and serum high sensitive C reactive protein (hsCRP) were determined before and after treatment.

Results: HsCRP decreased from 28.76 ± 3.66 to 19.84 ± 3.52 µgrs/L (p = 0.02); hsCRP decrease were associated with patients without hypertension (before 26.45 ± 4.44; after: 16.06 ± 3.27; n = 23; p=0.02), with diastolic dysfunction (before 27.01 ± 5.8; after: 11.25 ± 2.9; n = 15; p<0.01) and in the phase II (mild) of the disease (before 32.82 ± 6.84; after: 15.25 ± 4.31; n = 10; p<0.01).

Conclusion: Captopril decrease serum hsCRP, a phenomenon that could be related to improved inflammatory process and better prognosis