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Human cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* s.l. in Kenya.

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Our laboratory is characterizing *Leishmania* stabilates and isolates from active leishmaniasis cases. Smears and cultures from aspirates made on different dates from a single lesion on the bridge of the nose of an 18 years old Kenyan male from Nyandarua District contained *Leishmania*. The isolates, NLB-271 and NLB-271-IA, were characterized by cellulose acetate electrophoresis (CAE) using 20 enzyme systems and by Southern analysis using 2 deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probes (pDK10 and pDK20) from a Dakar strain of *L. major* (MHOM/SN/00/DK1) and a third probe, p7-059 from *L. infantum* strain ITMAP-263. Digestion of the two *Leishmania* DNAs with endonucleases *Hind*III and *Pst*I, followed by hybridization with the 3 probes, revealed DNA fragment banding patterns indistinguishable from those of the *L. donovani* species complex. The CAE isoenzyme profiles of these 2 Kenyan isolates were indistinguishable from those of Kenyan *L. donovani* strains we designated as zymodeme Z6. Excluding post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis, this constitutes the first human case of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *L. donovani* s.l. in Kenya. Previously, cutaneous leishmaniasis cases in Kenya have been due

to *L. aethiopica*, *L. major* and *L. tropica* only.

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